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*INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION*

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CHRONICLE OF  
PARLIAMENTARY  
ELECTIONS AND  
DEVELOPMENTS

1 July 1979 - 30 June 1980

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XIV

International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation (CIDP)

GENEVA, 1980

# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

## AIMS

The Inter-Parliamentary Union brings together Parliaments on a world-wide level.

The aim of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is to promote personal contacts between members of all Parliaments and to unite them in common action to secure and maintain the full participation of their respective States in the establishment and development of democratic institutions and in the advancement of international peace and co-operation.

In pursuit of this objective, the Union makes known its views on all international problems suitable for settlement by parliamentary action and puts forward suggestions for the development of parliamentary assemblies with a view to improving the working of those institutions and increasing their prestige.

## MEMBERSHIP

National Groups currently exist in the Parliaments of 89 countries.

## STRUCTURE

The organs of the Union are:

1. *The Inter-Parliamentary Conference*, which meets once a year.
2. *The Inter-Parliamentary Council*, composed of two members from each affiliated Group.  
President: Mr. Rafael Caldera (Venezuela).
3. *The Executive Committee*, composed of eleven members, ten of whom are elected by the Conference, the Council President acting as *ex-officio* Chairman.
4. *The Secretariat*, with headquarters in Geneva, Place du Petit-Saconnex.  
Secretary General: Mr. Pio-Carlo Terenzio (Italy).

## INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY DOCUMENTATION (CIDP)

The essential aim of the International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation (CIDP), created in 1965, is to enable the Inter-Parliamentary Union to carry out one of its statutory missions, to work for "the development of parliamentary institutions, with a view to improving the working of those institutions and increasing their prestige."

It contributes to the accomplishment of these objectives:

- By systematically collecting and distributing information on the structure and working of national legislative assemblies in all independent States, as well as on the status of their members;
- By encouraging the comparative study of representative institutions, with their special characteristics and problems, as well as of possible practical solutions to the latter;
- By attempting to help the assemblies of developing countries to strengthen their infrastructure.

The CIDP is a department of the Secretariat. Its activities and financing are included by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in the Union's Work Programme and Budget, in the light of recommendations made by a Consultative Committee of Experts.

To accomplish its tasks, the CIDP benefits from the collaboration of some 95 national correspondents.



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## INTRODUCTION

This issue of the *Chronicle* is the fourteenth in the series published by the International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation (CIDP) of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and covers the period from 1 July 1979 to 30 June 1980.

The book consists of two main sections, each divided by country.

The first section outlines the new legal provisions and political events which have affected the organization, power or method of operation of certain Parliaments.

The second section provides detailed analyses of 32 legislative elections which were held in independent countries during the period under review. Information is given therein on the electoral systems, the results of the voting and distribution of seats, as well as on the general political background against which each reported election took place. In certain cases, some gaps remain, especially with regard to statistical data which the CIDP was unable to obtain in due time.

The present *Chronicle* also contains, in addendum, information which supplements that given in the preceding volume (XIII).

As in the past, the accounts of the elections are printed on easily detachable stiff-paper pages for use as index cards that can be added to those of previous *Chronicles*.

Needless to say, the CIDP could not have compiled all this information without the collaboration of its national correspondents, who replied to questionnaires and sent up-to-date legal texts and other documentation serving to render an accurate account of the special features of the electoral system of their countries. Th CIDP wishes to express its gratitude to all of these persons as well as to diplomatic services, academics and other people around the world who have contributed to the preparation of the fourteenth *Chronicle*.

Lastly, the CIDP wishes to thank in advance all persons making use of the contents of the *Chronicle* for their acknowledgement of this publication as a reference source.





# I

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD**

(1 July 1979 — 30 June 1980)

During the period covered by this volume, the adoption of new constitutional, legislative or statutory provisions by many countries, as well as certain political events, have had an effect on national representative institutions and on the status of their members.

The major changes in the organization, composition, functioning and powers of legislative assemblies in independent countries that have come to the knowledge of the CIDP are briefly set out below.

## Algeria

*Constitutional amendments:* Several articles of the 1976 Constitution relating to the election and the replacement of the President of the Republic were amended on 7 July 1979 by *Law No. 79-06*. A new provision, *inter alia*, stipulates that in case the President of the Republic is temporarily unable to exercise his functions — due to a long and serious illness — the National Assembly shall, by a two-thirds majority, decide that his replacement be assured by the President of the People's National Assembly for a period of 45 days. This period of 45 days cannot be prolonged; if the President's incapacity persists, the Assembly shall declare the vacancy and announce the holding of presidential elections. The President of the People's National Assembly cannot stand for the election.

*Oversight powers of the People's National Assembly:* The scope and the modalities of the oversight functions of the People's National Assembly, as established by the Constitution, are set out in *Law No. 80-04*, adopted by the Assembly on 1 March 1980.

According to the Law, the purposes of the oversight are to ensure that the decisions of the highest State bodies are carried out in conformity with the existing laws and general guidelines of State policy, to verify that the conduct of national economic affairs is sound and rational and to detect any corrupt behaviour, misappropriation of public funds, bureaucratic mismanagement, etc.

This oversight is exercised by the following means: (a) approval of public accounts; (b) requirement that various nationwide control and audit boards and commissions, most public enterprises, as well as communal and provincial people's assemblies, submit regular reports of their activities; (c) creation of special committees of inquiry.

Such committees of inquiry are established upon request of at least 10 Deputies, the Bureau of the Assembly or a permanent committee, as well as upon request of the President of the Republic or the Secretary General of the Party. The committee is composed of a maximum of 15 members; it is given up to 6 months to proceed with its investigations. All hearings are held in private. The committee is entitled to receive documentation and information, provided that no such material is prejudicial to national security. The Assembly discusses the committee's report *in camera* and transmits it to the President of the Republic for action with a recommendation as to its partial or integral publication. The Assembly is informed by the Prime Minister, during a public sitting of the House, as to the measures taken by the Government in the light of the findings of the committee of inquiry.

*Remuneration of Deputies:* The People's National Assembly adopted on 23 February 1980 *Law No. 80-03* establishing the provisions for an annual salary for Members of the People's National Assembly and an additional allowance for those Members who do not reside in the capital. The annual salary cannot be combined with a salary which a Member may continue to receive for his professional activity outside Parliament. A decree provided that the annual salary be paid in monthly instalments of 5,500 Algerian dinars.



## **Australia**

*Casual vacancies in the Senate:* According to the provisions of the *Senate (Representation of Territories) Amendment Act 1980* (No. 14 of 1980), assented to on 8 April 1980, if the seat of a Senator representing the Northern Territory becomes vacant before the expiration of his term of office, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory must choose a person — of the same party as the retiring Senator if the latter was elected as a party candidate — to hold the seat to complete the term. In the case of the seat of a Senator representing the Australian Capital Territory, the replacement is chosen, under the same conditions, by the Federal Senate and the House of Representatives sitting and voting together.

*Estimates Committees:* Encouraged by the successful experience of referring bills to specially formed legislative committees rather than dealing with them in the Committee of the Whole House — a procedure introduced on a tentative basis in August 1978\* — the House of Representatives decided to continue this practice and even extend it to the consideration of Appropriation and Supply Bills. Thus, on a tentative basis, it agreed to constitute during the week following the Budget Speech two estimates committees of 12 to 18 members (not including a representative of the Government and the Chairman), whose task would be to examine the proposed expenditures without voting on the proposed amounts or having the right to modify them, and to report their findings and conclusions to the House.

## **Austria**

*Modifications of Rules of Procedure:* Several articles of the Rules of Procedure of the National Council were modified on 4 July 1979 and the new provisions entered into force on 1 October 1979. The changes were necessary in order to provide for adequate procedural and administrative measures following the adoption in March 1979 of a constitutional amendment concerning the exclusive competence of the National Council to authorize legal proceedings to be taken against a Member of Parliament for offences related to his or her political activity\*\*.

## **Bangladesh**

*Ombudsman:* *Ombudsman Act 1980* (No. 15 of 1980) provides for the establishment of a new office of Ombudsman. The Ombudsman is appointed for a term of three years by the President of the Republic upon the recommendation of Parliament. He can be recalled on the grounds of misconduct or physical incapacity pursuant to a resolution passed by Parliament with a two-thirds majority of the total number of its members.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 6.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 7.

The Ombudsman carries out his investigations upon receipt of complaints addressed to him by individuals or upon his own initiative. He submits annual reports to the President of the Republic, who transmits them to Parliament for information, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.

## Benin

*Establishment of a National Assembly:* When on 9 September 1977 the National Revolutionary Council promulgated by *Decree No. 77-32* a new Basic Law (Constitution) of the People's Republic of Benin, it also announced that the transfer of its full legislative and executive powers to the newly provided governmental bodies, in particular to a popularly-elected National Revolutionary Assembly, would be carried out step by step. Under that process, the first elections to the Assembly took place two years later, on 20 November 1979\*.

The Basic Law defines the People's Republic of Benin as a revolutionary, unitary, independent, sovereign and secular State whose development should be obtained through socialist measures, inspired by the Marxist-Leninist philosophy. The National Revolutionary Assembly is the supreme body of State power. It elects the President of the Republic, who is responsible for his activities to the Assembly. The President nominates members of the National Executive Council (Government) and chooses among them — following consultations with the Central Committee of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party and the National Revolutionary Assembly — members of a Permanent Committee of the National Executive Council, who act as a more restricted Cabinet of Ministers.

The National Revolutionary Assembly meets in two ordinary sessions per year. It elects from among its members a Permanent Committee whose prerogatives include organization of elections, summoning of sessions, interpretation of laws and control of the constitutionality of any law or act of Government. During recess, the Permanent Committee may, *inter alia*, take a decision on behalf of the National Assembly concerning the ratification or denunciation of international treaties and certain nominations.

The National Revolutionary Assembly has exclusive legislative powers. It can modify the Basic Law by a two-thirds majority of the total number of its members. It elects the President of the Central People's Court (Supreme Court) and the Procurator-General upon the advice of the Central Committee of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party. Both the Central People's Court and the Office of the Procurator-General are responsible for their activities to the National Revolutionary Assembly, to which they must report. People's Commissioners (i.e. members of the Assembly) have the right to address interpellations to the members of the National Executive Council and its dependant agencies. An answer must be provided within seven days, unless the question requires a more extensive inquiry, in which case a month's delay is given. The Assembly, or the Permanent Committee during intersessions, may decide to form committees

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 43.

of inquiry on any matter of public interest. All decisions of the National Revolutionary Assembly, as well as of its Permanent Committee, are taken by an absolute majority of the members present at the sitting.

*Electoral Law:* As a part of the process of the gradual preparation for the full implementation of the 1977 Constitution, the President of the Republic issued, on 30 May 1978, *Decree No. 78-18* establishing the number and the modalities of election\* of the People's Commissioners. A small addition to this Decree was passed on 8 May 1979 in the form of *Decree No. 79-21*.

## Brazil

*Political Parties:* In conformity with the provisions of the constitutional amendment passed in September 1978\*\*, the Congress adopted, on 22 November 1979, a law introducing a reform of the party system in the country. The law abolishes the two existing parties, ARENA and MDB, and lays down the conditions for the formation of new political parties which should, *inter alia*, have the support of at least 10 per cent of the members of each House, or at the next general election obtain the support of a minimum of five per cent of the electorate in at least nine States. A party should, in addition, give six months' notice of a national congress, swear its allegiance to the "democratic system of government", be free of "racial, religious or class bias", and have no links with foreign Governments or parties. The law authorizes the formation of party coalitions.

Following the adoption of this law and the dissolution of the existing parties, three political parties which fulfilled the requirements have been officially constituted: *Partido Democratico Social* (PDS), *Partido do Movimento Democratico Brasileiro* (PMDB) et *Partido Popular* (PP). A fourth political group — *Partido Democratico Trabalhista* (PDT) — which could not gather the required number of parliamentarians to constitute an official party, has only been able to form a parliamentary group in the Congress.

## Congo

*New Constitution:* By referendum of 8 July 1979, the people of the People's Republic of Congo approved a new Constitution of the country by 99.93% of the votes cast.

On the same day, the voters elected 153 Deputies to the People's National Assembly\*\*\*. Their mandate is imperative and they can at any time be recalled by the voters who put forward their candidatures. No fixed remuneration is provided for the Deputies during the exercise of their parliamentary mandate, except a sessional allowance and reimbursement of travel expenses.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 43.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), pp. 8-9.

\*\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 57.



Two ordinary sessions a year are provided for by the Constitution: one starting on the second Tuesday in May, the other on the first Tuesday in November. The duration of a session cannot exceed two months. The bureau of the National Assembly is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents and two Secretaries.

The People's National Assembly is the only authority for the passing of laws, adoption of the State's Budget, imposition of taxes and control of the Executive. Members of Parliament and Government have the power to initiate bills. Ministers may participate in the parliamentary debate and, in doing so, be assisted or represented by experts of their choice.

The Government must give regular account of its activities to the National Assembly. The Assembly has in addition at its disposal the following means of information: oral or written questions, committee hearings and committees of inquiry.

The President of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labour Party is elected President of the Republic at a party congress for a period of five years and his mandate as Head of State must be confirmed by the People's National Assembly. In case of temporary disability of the President of the Republic, the President of the National Assembly assumes the interim for a maximum period of 45 days.

*Electoral Law:* In view of the general elections of 8 July 1979\*, the President of the Republic issued on 10 May 1979 *Decree No. 013/79* containing the Electoral Law and provisions for holding a constitutional referendum.

## **Cyprus**

*New Electoral Law:* A new electoral law was promulgated on 27 July 1979, introducing a proportional system of representation for the election of the 35 representatives of the Greek Cypriots in the House of Representatives. For that purpose the island of Cyprus is divided into six electoral districts, each entitled to elect a different number of representatives, varying, according to population, from 12 (the district of Nicosia) to 2 (the district of Kyrenia).

A candidate must be supported by at least four registered voters and his nomination must be accompanied by a deposit of 100 Cyprus pounds. His campaign expenses should not exceed 500 Cyprus pounds. Voters first single out the list of candidates of their choice and then, within the list, mark one name for each four seats to be filled in their district. In districts returning less than four members, only one name may be marked on the ballot paper; where only one list of candidates is put forward, no voting takes place.

Seats are distributed among lists within each district by dividing the total number of votes cast for each list by an electoral quota (obtained by dividing the total number of votes cast in the district by the number of seats to be filled). Individual independent candidates who have obtained at least as many votes as the electoral quota are consid-

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 57.

ered elected. After this operation, the remaining seats are distributed among lists by attributing at least one additional seat to those lists which have obtained no less than 8% of the votes cast at the national level. Within a list, the choice of candidates declared elected is based on the number of votes cast for each of them and, where the votes are equally divided, the seat is awarded to the candidate whose name appears first on the list.

## **El Salvador**

*Legislative Assembly dissolved:* Following a coup d'Etat on 15 October 1979, a revolutionary junta composed of two colonels and three civilians seized power in the country and, *inter alia*, dissolved the Legislative Assembly. A new Council of Ministers was sworn in on 23 October 1979. The Minister of Justice declared on 1 November 1979 that the holding of legislative elections due to take place in March 1980 was postponed *sine die*.

## **Fiji**

*Remuneration of MPs:* The Review Committee on the Salaries and Allowances and Privileges of Members of Parliament, established in 1977, issued its second review report in October 1979 and recommended several changes in remuneration of MPs and parliamentary officers. It recommended, *inter alia*, that the annual parliamentary salary of the members of the House of Representatives be increased from 7,000\* to 7,315 Fijian dollars.

## **France**

*Committees' powers and officers:* By Resolutions No. 281 and 309, adopted respectively on 16 April and 28 May 1980, the National Assembly approved certain modifications to its Rules of Procedure providing for a broader participation of its committees in the legislative process.

According to the new provisions, a permanent committee wishing to be consulted on a bill or a part of a bill which has been transmitted for consideration to another permanent committee is no longer bound by deadlines within which it may inform the President of the Assembly of such a wish (*Resolution No. 281*). Permission for such consultation is given by the Assembly itself. The report of the committee so consulted, containing recommendations or amendments, is presented by its rapporteur to the committee primarily dealing with the bill in question (*Resolution No. 309*). Only recommendations concerning finance bills, economic and social development plans and ratification of international treaties and agreements are printed either as separate documents, as annexes to the verbatim proceedings of the plenary sitting or, if this cannot be the

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), pp. 13-14.

case, at least as annexes to the report of the primarily competent committee (*Resolution No. 309*). Such multiple consultations among committees have made superfluous the provision of Article 32 concerning the creation of a special committee whenever several committees expressed the wish to submit their recommendations and amendments to a bill. Such special committees used to be composed of three representatives of each committee wishing to present its opinions and three representatives of the primarily competent committee.

As far as the committee officers are concerned, *Resolution No. 309* establishes that the bureau of a special committee is to be composed of a president, two vice-presidents and two secretaries (previously there was one vice-president and one secretary).

The Senate also modified its Rules of Procedure concerning committee officers; by a resolution adopted on 25 October 1979, it provided for the procedure for election of the president and the two vice-presidents of a committee by secret ballot, the two vice-presidents being elected in a single ballot.

*Written questions to Ministers:* Also by *Resolution No. 281*, adopted on 16 April 1980, the National Assembly modified the provisions of Article 139 of its Rules of Procedure regarding written questions to Ministers. It established that all written questions which have not received an answer by the competent Minister within the prescribed period of one month are — unless the Minister justifies the delay and requests another month in which to provide an answer or declares that public interest prevents him from replying — automatically transformed, with the consent of their authors, into oral questions without debate and put on the order of business in the order of their registration with the Chair.

*Archives of the National Assembly:* Provisions regarding the consultation of the Assembly's Archives, as contained in the General Instructions by the Bureau of the National Assembly, were modified on 31 May 1979. All material which is more than 30 years old becomes public. As to the more recent material, only former and current members of the National Assembly have unlimited access, while any other person who may obtain from the Secretary General of the National Assembly the authorization to consult the Archives shall not have access to the minutes of committee proceeding or petition files.

The Archives Department keeps custody of sound recordings of all public sittings of the Assembly. Consultation, communication or re-recording of such material may be authorized only on request of a former or current member of the Assembly or former or current member of the Government. Former or current members of the Assembly may also obtain a recording of an answer by a member of Government to their questions, provided that the member of Government concerned gives his written consent.

### **Germany (Federal Republic of)**

*Modifications of Rules of Procedure:* On 25 June 1980, the German *Bundestag* adopted a series of modifications to its Rules of Procedure. The changes affect to a large extent the provisions concerning the procedure in the committees, *inter alia*: a new section 55 introduces the possibility of creating sub-committees; section 62 defines the



duty of a committee to carry out as promptly as possible the study of a question assigned to it by the *Bundestag* and provides that, on the expiry of 10 weeks of sittings, a parliamentary group or five percent of the total number of members of the *Bundestag* may request that a progress report be submitted by the committee chairman or rapporteur; section 66 provides that all final reports of a committee should be submitted in written form; the private aspect of committee sittings is defined in a new section 69.

The new Rules provide that the House must consider any procedural motion which is put forward by a parliamentary group or at least five percent of the total number of members of the *Bundestag*. If a doubt as to the interpretation of the Rules of Procedure arises even after the ruling of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the presiding officer, a committee, a parliamentary group, one-fourth of the membership of the Committee on Rules of Procedure or five percent of the total number of members of the *Bundestag* may request that a decision be taken by vote of the *Bundestag*.

The Special Provisions in Annex IV to the Rules of Procedure regarding question time were also modified. A Member of Parliament may submit a maximum of four written questions to the Government in one month (instead of two questions in each week of sittings, as previously). The question should be answered within a week in a written form, failing which the author may request that his question be answered orally during the next question-hour.

Each week, 180 minutes of sittings are devoted to oral questions. During question-hours, only questions whose authors are present at the sitting are given oral answers by Ministers. An author of a question may, before the opening of the sitting, inform the presiding officer of his inevitable absence and request that a written answer to his question be provided by the Government. On the proposal of a parliamentary group or five percent of the total number of members of the *Bundestag*, a question raised during the ordinary question-hour may be put on the order of business and debated as a matter of general topical interest.

## **Ghana**

*Standing Orders:* The Standing Orders of the new Parliament of Ghana, opened in September 1979\*, contain detailed provisions concerning all major aspects of parliamentary procedure, such as:

(a) Election of the Speaker and his Deputies; (b) privileges and immunities of the Members; (c) duties of the Clerk and duties of the Marshal (custody of the Mace, maintenance and security of the Parliament Building); (d) sitting and adjournment of the House (the House meets from Tuesday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.); (e) questions to Ministers: during three sitting days a week one hour should be devoted to oral answers to questions; written notice of a question must be deposited at the Clerk's Office 10 days in advance and a Member is not allowed to put more than three ques-

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), pp. 14-15, 85-87.

tions per sitting under certain strict conditions (no personal matters or matters already debated in the House should be raised, nor statements of opinion be expressed, no information should be sought regarding current proceedings of a committee, and questions should not refer to more than one subject at once); (f) rules for the debate: no limitation of speaking-time but a Member may not speak more than once except during the second reading of a bill or if he is the mover of a motion; (g) impeachment of the President and Vice-President of the Republic: the consideration of their impeachment may be launched upon a motion put forward by one-third of all the Members of Parliament and a subsequent consultation of the Chief Justice. Their removal from office is decided by Parliament in a secret ballot by a majority of at least two-thirds of all the Members of Parliament; (h) motion of censure on a Minister: such a motion must be signed by one-third of all the Members of Parliament and debated 14 days after its receipt by the Speaker. The decision is taken in a secret ballot and, in order to be adopted, the motion must obtain the support of at least two-third of all the Members of Parliament; (i) bills go through the usual three stages (readings) of consideration. Their assent may be refused by the President of the Republic, who may within 14 days return a bill to Parliament, accompanied by a memorandum and a request for reconsideration. Upon reconsideration, the bill requires the approval of an absolute majority of the Members present and voting; (j) the financial procedure follows the Westminster pattern of consideration of estimated revenues and public expenditure.

The Standing Orders provide for 10 standing committees dealing with: Standing Orders; order of business; privileges; public accounts; subsidiary legislation; House services; finance; foreign affairs; appointments; and Members holding offices of profit. There are, in addition, 11 select committees dealing with: defence and interior; trade, tourism, industry, science and technology; agriculture, cocoa and fisheries; lands, energy and natural resources; health and education; local government, legal and constitutional affairs; public works and housing; labour, youth, rural and social development and co-operatives; transport and communications; information and presidential affairs; State enterprises.

## Honduras

*Constituent Assembly:* After eight years of a military régime, the people of Honduras were called upon on 20 April 1980 to elect a representative Constituent Assembly whose main task would be to draft a new Constitution, appoint an interim President of the Republic and prepare the ground for the smooth return to civilian government in the country. The Assembly also has certain legislative powers.

As a result of the election, in which 75% of the registered electorate took part, the distribution of the Assembly's 71 seats by party affiliation of its Members is as follows:

Nationalist Party . . . . .	35 seats
Liberal Party . . . . .	33 seats
Innovation and Unity Party (PINU) . . . . .	3 seats

India

*Reserved seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:* By the Constitution (Forty-Fifth Amendment) Act, 1980, assented to on 4 April 1980, the reservation of seats for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and the representation for the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies were extended for a further period of 10 years, i.e. up to the year 1990.

*Election expenses:* Rule 90 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, was amended on 29 November 1979, raising the authorized ceilings of election expenses by individual candidates in elections to the Lok Sabha. The limits now range from Rs. 35,000 to 100,000 (previously Rs. 15,000 to 35,000) in a State, and from Rs. 15,000 to 50,000 (previously Rs. 6,000 to 15,000) in a Union Territory.

*Biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha:* On the expiration of their six-year term of office, 69 members, i.e. one third of the total membership (224) of the Rajya Sabha, retired during April 1980.

The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by Legislative Assemblies of Union States and Territories\*. The 1980 biennial elections were thus held in the following 15 States: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh.

As the result of this partial election, the strength of the political parties represented in the Rajya Sabha is as follows:

Political Group	Total No. of Seats	No. of Seats held in March 1980
Congress (I) . . . . .	121	100
Congress (U) . . . . .	21	24
Janata Party . . . . .	17	36
Bharatiya Janata Party . . . . .	14	—
Lok Dal . . . . .	14	18
Communist Party of India (Marxist) . . . . .	9	8
Communist Party of India . . . . .	7	9
Other parties . . . . .	24	22
Independents . . . . .	6	11
Nominated . . . . .	8	8
Vacancies . . . . .	3	8
	244	244

\* See section Chronicle of Elections, p. 77.



## Iran

*New Constitution:* In a referendum held on 2 and 3 December 1979, the Iranian voters (65% of the electorate) approved by 15,680,329 votes against 78,516 the Constitution which had been drafted by a Constituent Council of Experts elected for that purpose on 3 August 1979. The 73 members of the Council (out of whom 60 were clergymen or theologians) had been popularly elected from among some 1,000 candidates. Voters had been able to vote for up to 10 candidates of their choice on a single ballot paper.

The new Constitution provides that all legislation or acts of Government must be based on Islamic precepts and that all public activity is under the constant supervision of the Leader of the Revolution (*Faguih*), Ayatollah Khomeini, or, in his absence, of a Council of Leaders of three to five senior clergymen or religious authorities.

The legislative power of the country is vested in a Consultative Assembly of 270 members\* and the executive power in a popularly-elected President of the Republic, a Prime Minister and a Council of Ministers.

The Council of Guardians is a body composed of 12 members: six doctors of Islamic law appointed by Ayatollah Khomeini and six judges elected by the Assembly from a list submitted by the Supreme Council of the Judiciary. The Council of Guardians interprets the Constitution and supervises the elections of the President of the Republic and the Assembly, as well as the holding of popular referendums. No bill passed by the Assembly can be promulgated by the President of the Republic without prior verification by the Council of Guardians as to its conformity with Islam and the Constitution.

Bills may be introduced in the Consultative Assembly by the Council of Ministers or 15 Deputies. Members cannot introduce bills which diminish public resources or increase public expenditure without making compensatory cuts or corresponding increases in public revenue elsewhere. The Assembly cannot delegate its legislative powers except to its own permanent committees. The application of such legislative acts adopted by a committee is experimental and limited in time (to be defined by an enabling resolution of the Assembly) and subject to ratification by the Assembly. In performing its legislative functions, the Consultative Assembly has the right to initiate investigations into any matter of public interest.

The President of the Republic and members of the Government may at any time attend the sittings of the Assembly and deliver statements. The Prime Minister and his Ministers are responsible for their actions to the Consultative Assembly. Before their appointment is signed by the President of the Republic, they must receive the confidence of the Assembly in the form of a vote of investiture. A vote of confidence may also take place on other occasions, either on the request of the Government or following consideration of an interpellation addressed to the Council of Ministers as a whole or to a particular Minister, upon the initiative of 10 Deputies. A no-confidence vote implies the removal from office of the Minister or Ministers in question.

\*See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 81.



All procedural matters concerning the election of a President of the Assembly and the appointment of a Bureau, the passing of laws or the creation of permanent committees are to be defined by a set of Rules of Procedure which the Consultative Assembly will be required to adopt by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

## **Iraq**

*Establishment of a Parliament:* By Decree-Law No. 386 of 1980, the Revolutionary Command Council announced on 16 March 1980 the establishment of a popularly-elected Parliament, the first since 1958, to be called the National Council. The election of the 250 members of the National Council took place on 20 June 1980\*. For the first time in Iraqi history, women had the right to vote and be elected.

The Decree-Law contains provisions establishing the procedure for the election of the Council and briefly defining the powers and functions of the new legislative body.

The National Council is elected for a period of four years. It holds two sessions a year. It has full legislative powers and the right to exercise oversight over governmental and administrative activities. Members of the Government may be invited by the National Council to answer questions and submit reports. Separate Rules of Procedure to be adopted by the National Council will establish provisions concerning procedural matters, internal organization and the number and terms of reference of permanent and *ad hoc* committees.

## **Ireland**

*Modification of the Electoral Act: The Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1980* (Act No. 17 of 1980, assented to on 1 July 1980) provides for an increase in the number of members of the *Dáil* from 148 to 166 and a new delineation of electoral constituencies. These provisions will enter into operation upon the next dissolution of the *Dáil Éireann*.

*Election of Senators:* In a referendum held on 5 July 1979, the voters approved the *Seventh Amendment of the Constitution (Election of Members of Seanad Éireann by Institutions of Higher Education) Act, 1979*, which modified the provisions of Article 18 of the Constitution. The provisions of this Article, establishing, *inter alia*, the election of six Senators by electoral colleges composed of graduates of the National University and the University of Dublin, have been amended by introducing the possibility of enlarging these electoral colleges to graduates of any other institutions of higher education in the State.

*Remuneration of MPs:* Effective as from 26 June 1980, the salaries and allowances of members of the *Dáil* were increased to Irish £ 11,895 and those of Senators to Irish £ 6,545\*\*.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 83.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 17.

*Modifications of the Standing Orders of the Senate:* The Senate approved on 10 July 1979 a series of modifications of its Standing Orders. The changes concern, *inter alia*:

(a) According to a new provision, the Senate can be summoned by its President on receipt of a written reasoned request by at least 30 Senators; (b) upon the request of a group of at least five Senators, a Senators' bill can be printed and circulated by the Clerk of the House without preliminary leave of the House. This procedure previously applied only to Government bills; (c) a new Standing Order provides that a bill under discussion at the time of the calling of Senate elections is no longer considered as lapsed but will be proceeded with normally by the newly-elected Senate; (d) a new provision limits to three hours all debates on a Senator's motion, the author of the motion being allowed to speak for 30 minutes, any other speaker for 10 minutes, with the exception of Ministers; (e) the debate on a motion for the adjournment of the Senate to discuss a specific and important matter of public interest requiring urgent consideration should not exceed one hour and a half according to a new provision; (f) another new provision establishes that statements by a Government representative are not followed by a debate but that, at the discretion of the President, further statements by Senators may be allowed; (g) sittings of select and special committees should no longer be private and the Press and visitors will be able to attend them, unless a committee itself decides otherwise; (h) when a committee member cannot attend a meeting of his special committee, a Senator nominated by his group may take part in the proceedings and vote in his stead.

## Israel

*Questions to Ministers:* On 19 November 1979, the *Knesset* approved a modification of Rule 42 of its Rules of Procedure regarding the time allowed to a Minister to give an oral answer to a question addressed to him by a Member of Parliament. A Minister has 21 days to answer, recess days not entering into the reckoning of that lapse of time. The new ruling makes it possible for the Member to receive an answer from a Minister within the same period of time, even during the recess, by means of the reply being sent in writing to the private address of the author of the question.

*Sanctions against Members:* By amending Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure on 19 November 1979, the *Knesset* has given power to the presiding officer to remove from a sitting a Member of Parliament who has ignored three consecutive calls to order addressed to him by the presiding officer. According to the previous Rule, such sanctions required the agreement of the House by a vote. On 12 February 1980, the *Knesset* further amended the same Rule 67 by adding a provision that the Member thus removed from a sitting may resume his seat in the event of a vote being taken on the question under debate.

## Jamaica

*Electoral reform:* Within the framework of a large-scale discussion of constitutional and electoral reform, Parliament introduced on 8 August 1979 certain modifications to the existing *Representation of the People Act*, which are considered as being of an *interim* nature until the next general election of autumn 1980 and the subsequent adoption of constitutional reforms. The modifications contained in the *Representation of the People (Interim Electoral Reform) Act 1979* (No. 20 of 1979) provide, *inter alia*, for an *Interim* Electoral Advisory Committee composed of eight members, including a Director of Elections as a non-voting member who performs the functions of a chief electoral officer. The Committee advises the Director of Elections on all matters regarding the organization and supervision of elections and the appointment of national or local electoral authorities. In the event of a disagreement between the Committee and the Director, the latter should report the issue to Parliament within 14 days.

## Japan

*Standing committees:* The number of standing committees of the House of Representatives was increased from 16 to 18 by a decision of the House taken on 31 March 1980 to modify Article 41 of the *Diet Law*. The 18 committees concern the following spheres of activity: Cabinet; local administration; justice; foreign affairs; finance; education; social and labour affairs; agriculture, forestry and fisheries; commerce and industry; transport; communications; construction; science and technology (new); environment (new); budget; audit; rules and administration; discipline. The number and terms of reference of the standing committees of the House of Councillors remain unchanged.

## Kenya

*Election expenses:* In view of the general elections of November 1979\*, the *National Assembly and Presidential Election Act* (Cap. 7) was revised in order to incorporate the provisions on election expenses introduced by *Election Laws (Amendment) Act 1979* (No. 19 of 1979).

The law defines election expenses as any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money or valuables made in respect of the conduct or management of an election campaign by a candidate or his agent. The amount of money deposited with the returning officer at the moment of the nomination is not counted as an election expense. The candidate must inform the election authorities of the name and address of the person (if it is not himself) who will act as his agent responsible for the expense accounts. The detailed accounts must be transmitted to the returning officer for auditing within 60 days after the publication of the election results. The election expenses of a candidate may not exceed 40,000 Kenyan shillings.

\*See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 93.



## Kiribati

*Independence:* After two years of negotiations, concentrated largely on the future status of one of the islands of the archipelago, the island of Banaba, the 33 islands composing the British colony of Gilbert Islands achieved independence on 12 July 1979 under the name of Republic of Kiribati.

The Constitution of the new State provides for a Head of State, the *Beretitenti*, who is also Head of Government and as such must be a Member of Parliament. The *Beretitenti* is popularly elected from a list of four candidates nominated by Parliament from among its members. The *Beretitenti* and his Ministers, forming a Cabinet, are collectively responsible to Parliament.

The country's unicameral Parliament is called *Maneaba ni Maungatabu*. It is composed of 35 elected members, one nominated representative of the Banaban community and the Attorney-General as *ex-officio* member. The Speaker is elected by Parliament from among persons that are not Members. The Constitution provides for the creation of a *Maneaba* Members' Salaries Tribunal to review the salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament and make relevant recommendations to the *Maneaba*.

The *Maneaba* has full legislative powers. Any of its Members can initiate bills. A bill providing for an increase or a reduction of public revenues or expenditures should before its consideration receive prior approval by the Cabinet. Bills are adopted by a majority of votes cast. A constitutional amendment bill requires, however, the support of at least two-thirds of all the Members of Parliament and, if it amends the constitutional provisions concerning fundamental rights of the citizens, additional approval by at least two-thirds of the electorate in a popular referendum is also needed.

The term of office of the *Maneaba* cannot exceed four years. Parliament stands dissolved if a vote of no-confidence in the Government is taken by a majority of the total number of members of the *Maneaba*. A general election must be held within three months of a dissolution. The members of the House of Assembly elected on 1 February 1978 and still in office on independence day will keep their parliamentary mandate until its normal expiry in February 1982 unless the *Maneaba* is dissolved earlier.

## Liberia

*Constitution and National Legislature suspended:* Following a military coup d'Etat on 12 April 1980, Master Sgt. S.K. Doe was proclaimed as the new Head of State of Liberia and Chairman of the People's Redemption Council, the new executive body of the country. On 25 April, it was announced that the Constitution of 1847 was suspended, that the bicameral National Legislature was dissolved and that all legislative power was vested in the PRC.

## Morocco

*Number of Representatives and length of mandate:* By Organic Law No. 16-79 promulgated on 8 November 1979, the number of members of the House of Representatives



was increased from 264 to 267. Of the 267 Representatives, 178 (previously 176) are elected by direct universal suffrage, 49 (previously 48) are elected by electoral colleges composed of communal councillors and 40 by professional Chambers and associations.

In two constitutional referendums held on 23 and 30 May 1980, the people approved several modifications to the Constitution and, *inter alia*, an amendment to Article 43 concerning the term of office of the House of Representatives and its Bureau. The parliamentary mandate is lengthened from four to six years. The President of the House of Representatives is elected for a period of three years, while the other members of the Bureau continue to be elected for a term of one year on the basis of proportional representation of the political groups in the House.

### **Mozambique**

*Modifications of the Electoral Act:* By Law No. 1/80 of 5 April 1980, which modifies certain provisions of the 1977 Electoral Act, the People's Assembly is designated as the final authority for deciding the period and exact dates for holding general elections in the country.

### **Nepal**

*Constitutional referendum:* In a referendum held on 2 May 1980, the people expressed by 54.97 per cent of the votes cast their desire to maintain the representative system as established by the present Constitution against a proposal to introduce a multiparty parliamentary régime. On the announcement of the results, the King declared that certain reforms of the present system will nevertheless be introduced in the near future.

The present *Panchayat* system consists of a pyramidal interrelated sequence of assemblies, with, at the basis, village and communal assemblies and, at the top, the National *Panchayat*, the country's Parliament. The National *Panchayat* is composed of 135 members: 112 elected indirectly by zonal assemblies and 23 appointed by the King. Each year, one-fourth of the membership is renewed for a four-year term. For that purpose, the various zones of Nepal are divided into four groups and elections on all levels of representation are held each year in a different group.

To be qualified to become a member of the National *Panchayat*, a candidate must be a citizen of Nepal, 25 years of age, should not hold a public office nor have been previously recalled from office as member of the National *Panchayat* on the grounds of misconduct or incapacity.

The Chairman of the National *Panchayat* is appointed by the King on the recommendation of the National *Panchayat*. He is assisted by a Vice-Chairman and a Steering Committee composed of 14 members with the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Finance, Home Affairs, *Panchayat* and Law and Justice as *ex-officio* members. The Secretary of the National *Panchayat* is appointed by the King. The King shall summon the National *Panchayat* for at least one session per year. Between sessions, the King

may promulgate ordinances having the force of law, subject to a subsequent approval by the National *Panchayat*.

The King is also head of Government and he appoints the Prime Minister — if he so wishes — and the other Ministers from among the members of the National *Panchayat*. The Government members are directly responsible to the King. By resolution passed by a two-thirds' majority of all its members, the National *Panchayat* may decide to recommend to the King to remove the Prime Minister from office on the grounds that he has not fulfilled his responsibilities. No debate can however take place in the National *Panchayat* with regard to the conduct of the King and his family, the principles of the *Panchayat* system or the conduct of a judge in the discharge of his duties.

## Netherlands

*Committee meetings and powers:* The Rules of Procedure of the Second Chamber of the States General were amended on 24 April 1980. The modifications concern the organization of meetings and powers of the committees.

According to the new provisions, the committee meetings are in principle public. This rule does not apply for committees dealing with: procedure, information and security services, questions of naturalization and credentials. Any Member of the House or a Government representative may request that a committee hold a meeting in private. The rules provide for a report to be issued on each private committee sitting unless the committee itself decides otherwise. A committee member or a Government representative may after a committee meeting divulge his own declarations provided that such divulgement does not reveal the confidential nature of other members' statements. The House may by vote decide to impose sanctions (exclusion from all committee meetings and no communication of confidential material for a maximum period of one month) upon a Member who violates the confidentiality rule.

The timetable of committee meetings and their private or public character are announced 24 hours in advance.

According to another modification of the Rules of Procedure, the committees may proceed with votes on motions and amendments submitted during a committee meeting, and in doing so make recommendations to the plenary as to the decision to be taken on a bill or question.

## New Zealand

*Modifications of the Standing Orders:* On the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee, the House of Representatives adopted on 13 December 1979 several modifications to its Standing Orders.

The redrafted section concerning consideration of bills includes, *inter alia*, the following new provisions: an automatic referral of Government bills to a select committee following first reading in the House, exception being made in the case of "money" bills and bills of an urgent nature; the debate on motion for leave to introduce a Private



Member's bill is now limited to two hours, the mover and another speaker each being allowed to speak for 15 minutes, all other speakers being given 10 minutes; the debate on a Imprest Supply Bill (so far unlimited) should not exceed four hours; the time limit for speeches on the third reading of a bill is reduced from 20 to 10 minutes.

Ministerial statements may, according to a new provision, include matters of policy and controversy, be made at any time during a sitting and have no limitation as to speaking-time. The Leader of the Opposition is allowed five minutes to comment on the statement, the Minister in question another five minutes to answer.

Members who wish to raise a matter of privilege must refer the request to the Speaker in writing. The Speaker shall consider the nature of the complaint and shall determine whether the matter involves a question of privilege to be debated by the House.

The House agreed with the recommendation not to organize its committee system by introducing, as in some other Parliaments, the specialization of its committees according to governmental departments. It also refused to extend the investigating powers of its Public Expenditure and Statutes Revision Committees to other select committees. It authorized the Statutes Revision Committee to appoint sub-committees in the same way as the Public Expenditure Committee and to initiate its own investigations during periods while the House is not sitting. The terms of reference of the Commerce and Mining Committee were extended to energy matters in general and those of the Social Services Committee renamed Health and Welfare. The Education and Labour Committees were amalgamated as one. The Islands Affairs Committee (which had dealt with Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau matters) and the Road Safety Committee were suspended.

As far as the publicity of parliamentary proceedings is concerned, the House agreed with the recommendation not to introduce television broadcasting of its proceedings and not to extend the radio broadcasting of its plenary debates beyond the regular sitting hours, except in the case of a debate on an Imprest Supply Bill. It also reinforced the provisions concerning the private aspect of the select committee proceedings.

*Modifications of the Electoral Act:* A minor change to the *Electoral Act 1956* was assented to on 10 August 1979 in the form of *Electoral Amendment Act 1979* (No. 12 of 1979) which provides for the periodic printing of a composite roll of electors qualified to vote in an electoral district.

*Remuneration of MPs:* The Higher Salaries Commission determined on 2 May 1980 an increase of 10.4 percent in parliamentary salaries deemed to have entered into force on 10 November 1979. According to the *Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Determination 1980*, Members of the House of Representatives receive an annual salary of NZ \$ 23,390 (previously 18,000\*), The parliamentary allowances for Members remain unchanged.

The *Civil List Act 1979*, assented to on 26 October 1979, establishes the principles of remuneration of Government officials and Members of Parliament and contains a new

\*See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections XIII* (1978-1979), p. 22.

provision stating that, should the Supreme Court uphold a complaint concerning the validity of an election, the person whose election or return to Parliament is determined invalid may retain the parliamentary salary and allowances paid to him from the day of the election until the day when the House approves the ruling of Court. Moreover, the person declared elected to the House by the Supreme Court in such cases receives retrospective payment of the parliamentary salary and allowances.

## Peru

*New Constitution:* The Constituent Assembly which was elected on 18 June 1978 with the sole task of elaborating a new Constitution\* concluded its work on 12 July 1979 by promulgating the Political Constitution of Peru. It dissolved itself on 15 July, and on 28 July the President of the Republic announced that the first presidential and legislative elections according to the new Constitution would be held on 18 May 1980\*\*. The Constitution already contained the provision that the installation of the constitutional Government would take place on 20 July 1980.

The Constitution provides for a Congress composed of a Chamber of Deputies and a Senate. The Presidents of the two Houses summon the Congress twice a year for two ordinary sessions, the first from 27 July to 15 December, the second from 1 April to 31 May. There is a Permanent Committee composed of five Senators and ten Deputies, with the two Presidents of the Houses as *ex-officio* members; the Committee runs the routine affairs of the Congress between the sessions and is chaired by the President of the Senate.

The two Houses have equal rights in passing laws. Legislation can be initiated in either House by its members, the President of the Republic, as well as by the Supreme Court or regional authorities on matters falling within their fields of interest. In the case of disagreement on a bill, the House which originally adopted the text must override the disapproval or amendments by a two-third majority of the total number of its members and, unless the other House confirms its disapproval by a two-thirds majority of its members, the bill is considered approved in the version adopted that second time by the House where it originated. The Budget Bill is studied and evaluated by a joint committee composed of 8 Senators and 8 Deputies and the committee report is debated and voted upon at a joint sitting of the Congress. Tax bills must be debated and voted upon before the Budget Bill. During parliamentary recesses, supplementary credits and transfers may be approved by the Permanent Committee. The Congress may authorize the Executive to legislate, through legislative decrees, on the matters and for the period specified by the authorizing law. Constitutional bills must be approved twice during two consecutive sessions; to be adopted, they require the vote of the absolute majority of the total number of members of each House. Such bills may be initiated by the President of the Republic, the members of either House, the Supreme Court of Justice or

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XII* (1977-1978), pp. 16-17.

\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 101.



50,000 citizens. Upon the initiative of the President of the Republic, the Supreme Court, the Public Prosecutor, 60 Deputies, 20 Senators or 50,000 citizens, the Court of Constitutional Guarantees verifies the constitutionality of laws and decrees.

All presidential legislative initiatives and decrees must have the approval of the Council of Ministers. The Chamber of Deputies alone has the power to interpellate, censure and confirm confidence in a Council of Ministers or an individual Minister. An interpellation can be presented by at least 15 per cent of the total number of Deputies. The consideration of the interpellation takes place three days after its deposit and the vote is taken by a two-thirds majority of the total number of Deputies. A motion of censure can be presented by no less than 25 per cent of the total number of Deputies; it is debated and voted upon three days after its introduction and, to be adopted, requires the support of an absolute majority of the total number of Deputies. Its approval leads to the resignation of the Minister or Ministers in question. The President of the Republic is empowered to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies if the latter has censured or denied confidence in three Governments. The Chamber cannot be dissolved during a state of emergency or during the last year of its term of office. During that period, a motion of censure must be approved by a two-thirds majority of all the members of the Chamber of Deputies in order to result in the resignation of the contested Ministers. The Senate cannot be dissolved.

The Chamber of Deputies has the power to impeach the President of the Republic, members of both Houses, Ministers or judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Constitutional Guarantees for a violation of the Constitution or for a crime committed during the exercise of their functions. But it is the Senate which decides as to whether there are grounds for finding the person guilty of the charges brought by the Chamber of Deputies.

## **Romania**

*Number of Deputies:* With a view to the general election of 9 March 1980\*, the Council of State issued on 22 January 1980 *Decree No. 16/1980*, which provided for a new delineation of electoral constituencies on the basis of one Deputy to the Grand National Assembly per 60,000 inhabitants. As a result, the number of Deputies to the Grand National Assembly has increased from 349 to 369.

## **Saint Vincent**

*Independence:* The Caribbean island of St. Vincent together with the adjacent smaller islands, the Grenadines, attained independence on 27 October 1979.

The Constitution of the new State of St. Vincent provides, *inter alia*, for a unicameral Parliament, called House of Assembly, composed of 13 elected Representatives and six Senators appointed by the Governor-General (four Senators appointed on the advice

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 111.

of the Prime Minister and two on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition). The Speaker is not necessarily elected from among the Members of the House. The Attorney-General is an *ex-officio* member of the House.

Decisions of the House are taken by a majority of votes cast, provided that at least eight Members are present. The majority required for the adoption of a constitutional amendment is, however, two-thirds of all the Representatives. In the case of modifications of certain entrenched sections of the Constitution (on fundamental rights, organization and functioning of State institutions or finance), the Constitution requires that at least 90 days elapse between the introduction of the constitutional amendment bill in the House and its second reading and that the bill, as approved by the House, obtain the support of at least two-thirds of the valid votes cast in a popular referendum.

The Governor-General appoints as Prime Minister a Representative who appears to command the support of the majority of other Representatives. All other Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are appointed by the Governor-General from among the Members of Parliaments. Ministers are responsible to the House. A vote of no confidence in the Government is determined by a majority of the votes of all the Representatives. The Governor-General shall remove the Prime Minister from office if a motion of no confidence in the Government is passed by the House and the Prime Minister does not within three days either resign from his office or advise the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament.

Parliament is summoned, prorogued and dissolved by the Governor-General. The life of Parliament cannot exceed five years. The 13 Representatives elected to the House of Assembly in December 1974, while the country was still a dependency, maintained their parliamentary mandate after independence until 2 January 1980. The first general election in the independent State took place on 5 December 1979\*.

## Sierra Leone

*Pension benefits for Members of Parliament:* On 18 January 1980, Parliament passed the *Parliamentary Pensions Act, 1980*, which provides for the establishment of a non-contributory pension scheme for persons who have served in Parliament since 17 May 1973 for at least seven years. Such persons are entitled to a non-transferable annual pension of Leone 1,200 payable during their lifetime.

## Solomon Islands

*Remuneration of Members of Parliament: Parliamentary (Conditions of Service) Commission Act 1979* (No. 2 of 1979) provides for the creation of a commission composed of three persons (who may not be Members of Parliament) whose task is to recommend to Parliaments the salaries, allowances and other facilities that should be granted to Members of Parliament, taking into consideration the economic situation in the country and the movement of salaries and social benefits in other sectors of public life.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 117.

*Leadership Code:* Pursuant to section 95 of the Constitution which contains a basis of a leadership code, Parliament passed a law, *Leadership Code (Further Provisions) Act 1979* (No. 7 of 1979) elaborating the procedure of disclosure of financial affairs and interests of the leading personalities of the country's public life (including Members of Parliament) and establishing sanctions that can be imposed by a decision of the High Court on persons found guilty of misconduct in office. Sanctions may vary from a fine of \$ IS 1,000 to 12 months' imprisonment.

## **Somalia**

*New Constitution:* In a referendum held on 25 August 1979, the people of the Somali Democratic Republic approved a new Constitution of the country by 99.78% of the valid votes cast.

The Constitution states that Somalia is a socialist State led by the working class and is an integral part of the Arab and African entities. The supreme authority of political and socio-economic leadership is vested in the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party. The legislative power lies with the People's Assembly. The Assembly is elected for a period of five years\* but may be dissolved before the expiry of its term of office on the initiative of one-third of its members approved by a vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the Assembly, or by the President of the Republic after consultation with the Central Committee of the Party and the Standing Committee of the People's Assembly. The Standing Committee is a body composed of the President and the Vice-President of the Assembly, a secretary and 10 other members. Its function is to direct the business of the Assembly between sessions. It can pass legislation and amend laws subject to subsequent approval by the Assembly. Legislation can be initiated by the President of the Republic, the Government, the Standing Committee of the Assembly or any member supported by one-third of all the Members of the Assembly. Bills are adopted by a majority vote and should be promulgated by the President of the Republic within 45 days of their passage. The President may request in a memorandum the reconsideration of a particular bill by the Assembly. After reconsideration, the bill should obtain the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Assembly in order to be promulgated as law.

Members of the People's Assembly continue to exercise their functions in their professional life parallel to their parliamentary mandate. During sessions and while on parliamentary missions they receive special allowances in reimbursement of the expenses incurred by the exercise of their mandate. Members may be recalled by their voters if they lose their confidence. The proposal for recall must have the support of one-fourth of the voters and the decision is taken by a simple majority vote of the People's Assembly.

The President of the Republic is elected by the People's Assembly by a majority of two-thirds of all the Members of the Assembly on the first and second ballot, and by a

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 121.



simple majority if there should be a third ballot. The Government is directly responsible to the President of the Republic. Upon its appointment, the Government presents its programme to the Central Committee of the Party and to the People's Assembly. Members of the Assembly have the right to put questions to the Government or individual Ministers who are under the obligation to provide an answer within 20 days. The Assembly may authorize its committees to initiate inquiries into matters of public interest.

## South Africa

*Constitutional amendments* : Several amendments to the Constitution were approved by Parliament in the course of the 1980 session, *inter alia*:

*Republic of South Africa Constitution Amendment Act 1980* (No. 70, 1980) which extends from three to twelve months the period during which a Minister can remain in office without being a member of Parliament. During that period such a Minister enjoys all parliamentary privileges and may sit and speak in either House but cannot take part in voting;

*Republic of South Africa Constitution Third Amendment Act 1980* (No. 28, 1980) which regulates the division of provinces into electoral districts according to a quota established on the provincial level (and not on the national level as previously) by dividing the number of White registered voters in the province by the number of members of the House of Assembly to be elected by the province;

*Republic of South Africa Constitution Fourth Amendment Act 1980* (No. 74, 1980) which amends Article 118 of the Constitution by providing that, in order to be approved, any modification of Article 108 of the Constitution (concerning official languages) as well as of Article 118 itself must be adopted by at least two-thirds of the total number of members of the House of Assembly. The previous text required a vote to be taken at a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament;

*Republic of South Africa Constitution Fifth Amendment Act 1980* (No. 101, 1980), approved in May 1980, which establishes the office of Vice State President, elected by Parliament in the same way as the State President. The Vice State President is chairman of the President's Council, an advisory body of 60 members nominated by the State President, also established by the same 1980 Fifth Amendment. The Council came into operation on 5 September 1980 and has, as its main task, to elaborate a vaster constitutional reform through consultations and deliberations.

*Parliamentary reform*: The above-mentioned *Republic of South Africa Constitution Fifth Amendment Act 1980* abolishes the Senate as from 1 January 1981 and increases the number of members of the House of Assembly from 165 to 177: out of the 12 additional members four (one for each province) are nominated by the State President and the remaining eight nominated by the 165 elected members of the House, according to the principles of proportional representation, from among candidates put forward by parliamentary party groups.



In the light of this major reform, the House of Assembly approved on 12 June 1980 a series of modifications of its Standing Orders necessary in order to adjust the procedure in the House to the situation arising from the abolition of the Senate on 1 January 1981.

## **Spain**

*Motion of censure:* In Article 113, the 1978 Constitution provides for a vote of confidence in a Government by means of a motion of censure proposed by at least one-tenth of the members of the Congress of Deputies which, at the same time, contains a proposal for a candidate to replace the President of the Government (Prime Minister). The vote takes place five days after the submission of the motion; during that time alternative motions of censure may be also submitted. If the motion is adopted by an absolute majority of the members, the Government must present its resignation to the King who appoints, as the new Prime Minister, the candidate proposed in the motion of censure.

On 28 May 1980, the Bureau of the Congress of Deputies adopted a resolution establishing the details of the procedure for the debate of such a motion: a co-sponsor of the motion opens the debate, having at his disposal 30 minutes to speak. The candidate for the new presidency of the Government may speak for one hour, representatives of a parliamentary group may among themselves share the 30 minutes of speaking-time allotted to each group to which may be added 10 more minutes for explanations and the exercise of the right of reply. If several motions of censure are presented, the President of the Congress may decide to have them debated jointly but must put them to the vote separately and in the order of their deposit. The vote is taken by public roll-call. The first motion to obtain the support of the absolute majority of all the members of the Congress of Deputies invalidates all subsequent motions.

*Rules of Procedure of the Senate:* From July 1979 to May 1980, the President of the Senate issued a series of explanatory instructions regarding certain articles of the Provisional Rules of Procedure\* felt necessary until the definitive Rules are adopted by the House. These instructions concern, *inter alia*: (a) the procedure for debate on the inclusion in the order of business and referral to a competent committee of a bill proposed by a minimum of 20 Senators (a minimum of 50 Senators in the case of bills with financial repercussions). Speakers in the debate include one member in favour and one against, each not exceeding the 20 minutes of their speaking-time, and spokesmen of parliamentary groups, each of whom may not exceed ten minutes. If the referral is accepted, the Bureau of the Senate informs the Congress of Deputies and the Government of the new bill under consideration (Instructions issued on 4 July 1979); (b) the procedure for debate of an interpellation in which only one co-sponsor of the interpellation can take part, followed by the interpellated Minister and, unless the House decides to enlarge the debate, by the spokesmen of three political groups who speak in the order

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XII* (1977-1978), pp. 31-32.

inversely proportional to the numerical strength of their groups. The interpellator and the interpellated may conclude the debate by their explanations and answers (Instruction issued on 26 October 1979); (c) the possibility to amend the committee reports on bills provided that the amendments are submitted by a political group before the sitting at which the committee report is to be debated. The vote on those amendments takes place after the vote on the report and the amendments proposed by the committee (Instruction issued on 5 February 1980); (d) the procedure to be applied following the adoption of a motion put forward by at least 10 Senators or a political group requesting that the Government inform the House of the action that it has taken or is contemplating on a specific matter, as foreseen by Article 137 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure. The Government's statement is put on the order of the day at the end of the sitting. The Bureau of the Senate decides whether the debate following such a statement should take place at the same sitting or on another day. The debate consists of an intervention by one co-sponsor of the motion and the spokesmen of political groups speaking in the order inversely proportional to the numerical strength of their groups. They cannot speak for more than 15 minutes, but have a further five minutes each for explanations and to exercise their right of reply (Instruction issued on 29 April 1980).

*Adoption and modification of Statutes of Autonomous Communities:* The 1978 Constitution establishes that the statute of an autonomous community, elaborated by the representatives of that community and approved in a popular referendum organized on its territory, must have the approval of the two Houses of the General *Cortes* and be adopted as an organic law. This was the case of the two statutes of the Basque Region and of Catalonia adopted by the Congress of the Deputies on 29 November and by the Senate on 12 December 1979, following the popular referendums held in these two provinces on 25 October of the same year.

The two statutes provide that a modification of their contents may be put forward by their respective regional Parliaments or their Governments, as well as by the Spanish General *Cortes*. The modification must be approved by the regional Parliament and by the General *Cortes* in the form of an organic law (except when the modification does not affect the Spanish Constitution or the relations of the region and the State). An additional approval in a popular referendum is also required: prior to the approval by the *Cortes* in the case of the Statutes of the Basque Region, and subsequent to it in the case of the Statute of Catalonia.

The two regional Parliaments have the right to initiate bills to be submitted to the Congress of Deputies and to delegate up to three of their members to present the bill to the Congress and defend it.

## Sudan

*Number of Members of the People's Assembly: People's Assembly Election Rules 1980*, issued with a view to the general election of May 1980\*, establishes, *inter alia*, an

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 123.

increase in the number of Members of the People's Assembly from 304 to 368. Out of 368 Members, 136 are elected in territorial constituencies, 196 are elected by electoral colleges — i.e. 54 by popular organizations (a new provision), 106 (previously 102) by electoral colleges of different professional trends and 36 by administrative units — while 36 (previously 30) are appointed by the President of the Republic.

## Suriname

*Parliament suspended:* On 25 February 1980, a group of army officers took power in the country, maintaining in office the President of the Republic as well as the Parliament, but postponing *sine die* the holding of general elections due to take place on 27 March 1980 and replacing the existing Government by a Council of Ministers composed of civilians. On 13 May, the Parliament passed a law by an absolute majority of the 25 members who were present at the sitting (out of a total number of 39 who compose Parliament) according to which it empowered the Government to enact all new legislation by means of decree-laws transmitted to Parliament merely for information.

Following a further coup d'Etat on 13 August 1980, a different group of officers seized power, removed the President of the Republic from office and abolished the Parliament.

## Switzerland

*Modification of the Rules of Procedure of the National Council:* The National Council adopted on 27 September 1979 a certain number of modifications of its Rules of Procedure, *inter alia*:

(a) *Reorganization of the committee system:* The Bureau of the House is empowered to designate 11 permanent committees and to establish the number of their members. According to a new Rule, in the case of certain matters of a complex public and political interest, the Bureau can form *ad hoc* committees composed of representatives of each of the permanent committees which are competent in some specific aspect of the matter to be considered. From among the ten previously-existing permanent committees, the following five committees retain their terms of reference unchanged: Committee on Finance, Committee on Governmental Management, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Military Affairs and Committee on Science and Research. The subject of cantonal constitutions has been added to the prerogatives of the Committee on Petitions, and the new Rules indicate that matters concerning justice and law may also be referred to that Committee. The three Committees on External Trade, Alcohol and Federal Railways have been suspended and the five new committees deal with the following matters of public interest: social security; public health and environment (including questions regarding the Federal Bureau for Alcohol); economic affairs (including questions of external trade and customs duty); transport and traffic (including questions regarding Federal Railways); and energy. The terms of reference of the Committee on Validation of Elections were transferred to the Bureau of the House. The new



Rules establish a Federal Constructions Group composed of five to seven members of the National Council, which examines technical and economic questions regarding federal construction projects, acquisition of land by the Confederation and federal building subsidies; (b) *committee reports* must be submitted in writing and should only contain introductory statements, interpretations and legislative actions proposed. The rapporteur takes the floor only if counter-proposals have also been submitted; (c) introduction of certain *speaking-time limitations*: the National Council may decide, on the basis of the recommendations by the Conference of Groups' Presidents, to limit the overall speaking time for the debates on general principles of a bill or committees' reports. At the conclusion of such a debate, a further period of 30 minutes is reserved for comments and the exercise of the right of reply by committee rapporteurs, the representative of the Government and a certain number of members of the National Council. During the debate on a motion, postulate or interpellation, the author — as well as the representatives of political groups — may speak for only 10 minutes, as opposed to the 15 minutes allowed on other occasions. The Conference of Groups' Presidents may recommend to limit the overall time allotted for a debate on an interpellation and to distribute the total time in an equitable manner among the registered speakers; (d) introduction of a *question hour*: on the second and third Mondays during each session, a maximum of 90 minutes are reserved for governmental answers to Members' questions which were submitted in writing not later than by the end of the morning sitting on the preceding Thursday. The answers by the Government should be brief. Only one supplementary question is permitted. In the case of a question which requires a complex and long answer, the Government may choose to provide a written answer according to the Rules applied to ordinary written questions (a question should be answered within three weeks of its deposit if considered urgent and, in any case, before the beginning of the next parliamentary session).

## Togo

*New Constitution*: The first Constitution of the Republic of Togo after 13 years of military régime was promulgated in Lomé on 9 January 1980 following its popular approval by 99.86% of votes cast in a referendum held on 30 December 1979.

The new Constitution reaffirms the leading role of the sole political party, the *Rassemblement du peuple togolais* and establishes a presidential system of government. It provides for a National Assembly elected for a period of five years\*. The Assembly holds two sessions each year, one starting on the first Tuesday of April, the other on the first Tuesday of October; a session cannot exceed two months. The President of the Republic may convene the Assembly for an extraordinary session on a specific item of business. The sittings of the Assembly are public but may be held *in camera* if so requested by the President of the Republic. The President of the Assembly is elected for

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 135.

the duration of a legislature; he can be recalled by a decision of the House taken by a two-thirds majority of all the Deputies.

Bills can be initiated by the President of the Republic or Members of the National Assembly. The Constitution defines the scope of the legislative power of the Assembly and states that any bill before the House which does not belong to the category of acts of Parliament can be declared inadmissible by the Government and withdrawn from the order of business. In the case of a disagreement on this matter between the Assembly and the Government, the decision of the Central Committee of the *Rassemblement du peuple togolais* is final. The Government may oppose the consideration of any proposal or amendment submitted by a Member having financial implications or any amendment presented during a debate which has not previously been considered by an appropriate committee.

If, in the course of 40 days, the Assembly has not taken any decision on a particular Government bill, the Government is authorized to enforce it by decree. Moreover, the Government may, for a limited period of time, take measures, in the form of decree-laws, that normally belong to the category of acts of Parliament.

One sitting per week is devoted to questions to Ministers. The Assembly may request a statement from a Minister as to the management of his department and may report to the President of the Republic on its findings. The Ministers are accountable to the President of the Republic for their actions.

An amendment to the Constitution may be initiated by the President of the Republic or the National Assembly; it requires the approval of a two-thirds majority of all the Members of the National Assembly and the agreement of the Central Committee of the Party. Failing the required support of the members composing the Assembly, the constitutional bill can be submitted to a popular referendum.

*Electoral Law:* The procedure for the election of members of the National Assembly on 30 December 1979\* was established according to the provisions of the *Decree No. 79-49* issued by the President of the Republic on 13 December 1979.

## Tunisia

*Modifications of the Electoral Code:* Two sets of amendments to the Electoral Code were adopted on 15 August 1979 (*Law No. 79-35*) and on 30 April 1980 (*Law No. 80-20*).

*Law No. 79-35* contains a new provision which makes it possible for Tunisian citizens living abroad, through the intermediary of a Tunisian diplomatic mission, to be registered as electors in the community of their original residence.

The same Law establishes that the number of candidates on a list in a particular constituency must correspond to twice the number of seats to be filled.

Other amendments concern, *inter alia*, distribution of voters' cards, procedure for casting votes in a polling station, counting of ballot papers and proclamation of the results, as well as regulations as to the size of publicity posters and ballot papers.

\*See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 135.

## Turkey

*Biennial partial elections to the Senate:* The Turkish Senate is composed of 150 members elected for 6 years and 15 members appointed by the President of the Republic. In order to preserve the continuity, only one-third of the seats is renewed every two years. The election is by universal suffrage based on the system of party-lists with proportional representation according to the d'Hondt method. Every citizen of at least 40 years of age who has received higher education and is eligible for the National Assembly\* may be elected Senator.

The latest partial elections to the Senate took place on 14 October 1979. As a result, the distribution of the 50 contested seats among parties was as follows:

Justice Party . . . . .	33 seats
Republican People's Party . . . . .	12 seats
National Salvation Party . . . . .	4 seats
National Action Party . . . . .	1 seat
	<hr/>
	50 seats

## USSR

*Deputies' letters to governmental and public agencies:* On 21 May 1980, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet issued a new text of provisions concerning the treatment to be given by governmental and public agencies and organizations to letters and requests for action or clarifications addressed to them by Deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet on behalf of their constituents. Governmental and public bodies and organizations must take action on such letters and petitions as soon as possible and not later than one month after their receipt. The Deputies may participate in the investigations carried out upon their request and are entitled to receive a detailed written account of the results of the inquiry and the steps undertaken to remedy or improve the situation wherever required.

## United Kingdom

*Modifications of the Standing Orders:* On the basis of the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Select Committee on Procedure, Session 1977-1978 (House of Commons paper 588-I of 1977-1978), the House of Commons approved on 31 October 1979 a series of procedural changes, such as:

(a) The Speaker may at his discretion impose a 10 minutes' limitation on speaking-time for Members who wish to speak between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. during a second reading debate. This provision has been adopted on an experimental basis for the duration of a session; (b) according to the new provisions, the sittings on Friday open at 9 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. (previously 11 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.); (c) on supply days, the

\*See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections XI* (1977-1978), pp. 157-159.



motions moved by the Opposition may be voted upon before the vote on the amendments to such motions which are usually brought in by the Government; (d) during a session, ten Fridays are set aside for Private Members' business: on six Fridays, precedence is given to second readings of the Members' bills and on the remaining four Fridays to later stages of consideration and amendments from the House of Lords. A new provision makes it possible, provided there is not a single objection from the House, for a Private Member's bill to be referred to the Second Reading Committee even after the seventh Friday and thus be given a chance to go through all the stages before the end of the session.

*Committees:* Two additional select committees were added to the 12 departmental committees created by the decision of the House on 25 June 1979, following the recommendations of the Select Committee on Procedure (First Report, session 1977-1978\*): the Select Committee on Welsh Affairs, decided upon on 26 June 1979, and the Select Committee on Scottish Affairs, decided upon on 31 October 1979. The creation of these two committees do not lead to the abolition of the Scottish and Welsh Grand Committees, which continue to examine and amend bills concerning the interests of those two regions.

The 14 select committees cover the following areas of governmental activities: agriculture; defence; education, science and arts; employment; energy; environment; foreign affairs; home affairs; industry and trade; social services; transport; treasury and civil services; Scottish affairs; Welsh affairs.

*Remuneration of MPs and Peers:* On 11 July 1979, the House of Commons approved the recommendations of the Review Body on Top Salaries to provide for a gradual increase in the annual salary of Members of Parliament, spread over three stages from June 1979 to June 1981. Taking into account the subsequent modifications of the actual sums to be allocated to Members of Parliament in the form of a salary or an allowance, the increases were as follows: as from 13 June 1979, an increase in the annual salary from UK £ 6,897 to UK £ 9,450 and of the secretarial allowance from £ 4,200 to £ 4,520 (agreed upon on 11 July 1979); as from 31 March 1980, an increase in the Members' office, secretarial and research allowance to £ 6,750 (agreed upon on 4 March 1980); as from June 1980, an increase in the annual salary from £ 9,450 to £ 11,750 (agreed upon on 21 July 1980) and in Members' allowances from £ 6,750 to £ 8,000 (agreed upon on 7 August 1980).

On 4 March 1980, the House of Commons also approved a motion in favour of reimbursement of all travel expenses within the United Kingdom and introduced the possibility of granting a severance pay equivalent to a full year's salary to a Member of Parliament, 55 to 64 years of age, who has served at least 15 years in Parliament and who is defeated in a general election or loses his seat because of a new delimitation of constituency boundaries.

The recommendations of the Review Body on Top Salaries (12th Report of June 1979) concerning the expense allowances of the Members of the House of Lords were

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 36.

also approved. Effective as from June 1979, the Peers' expense allowances fall into three new categories: overnight subsistence (up to UK £ 18.50), day subsistence and incidental travel (up to £ 9) and secretarial costs, postage, etc. (up to £ 18.50 per day).

### United States of America

*Standing Rules of the Senate:* Pursuant to the adoption of Senate Resolutions 274 and 389 on 14 November 1979 and 25 March 1980, respectively, the Standing Rules of the Senate were revised and modernized without substantive changes being introduced in the Senate procedure. The revision consisted of renumbering some rules and transferring others in order to group related subject matters and procedures in a more logical and coherent manner. All provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Acts of 1946 and 1970 concerned directly with Senate procedure were combined into one rule. The modernization of the Rules included some changes in language and terminology and the inclusion of various orders of the Senate which had not so far been part of the Standing Rules, although logically they should have been.

*Rules of the House of Representatives:* Public Law 96-78 of 29 September 1979, which provided for a temporary increase in the public debt, also contained provisions for the modification of the Rules of the House of Representatives by introducing a procedure for the future establishment of the public debt limit as part of the budget process and the obligatory inclusion of the estimated increase or decrease of the public debt limit in the concurrent resolutions on the State Budget adopted by the two Houses.

*Election campaign:* Public Law 96-187 of 8 January 1980 amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 by reducing requirements in the reporting and disclosure of election campaign expenses. No reporting is required for candidates who spend less than US \$ 5,000 on their campaign. The same is valid for local party groups in connection with their annual expenses on volunteer election activities. The number of financial reports that a candidate must file during a two-year election cycle is reduced from 24 to 9: one pre-primary, one pre-general and one post-general report, four quarterly reports during the election year and two semiannual reports during the non-election year.

*Remuneration of Congressmen:* A 5.5 per cent increase in the annual salary of Congressmen was agreed to on 15 October 1979; this meant that Senators and Representatives would receive in fiscal year 1980 an annual salary (not including special allowances) of US \$ 60,660 instead of \$ 57,500, as previously.

### Yugoslavia

*Publication of federal laws:* The Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia adopted on 27 February 1980 a *Law supplementing the Law on the Publication of Federal Laws and Other Federal Regulations and Enactments* which provides that federal laws and regulations containing data of a confidential nature and whose publication would be contrary to the country's security and defense interests or certain social interests shall be published in a special federal official gazette to which access shall be restricted.



## **Zaire**

*Constitutional amendments:* Under the new constitutional provisions contained in *Law No. 80-007* of 19 February 1980, the President of the Republic may order the dissolution of the Legislative Council (Parliament) after consulting its Bureau. The Decree announcing the dissolution must also provide for the holding of a general election within a period of 60 days following the dissolution.

## **Zimbabwe**

*Independence:* Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia) acceded to internationally recognized independence on 18 April 1980. This occurred fifteen years after the unilateral declaration of independence by the White minority Government led by Mr. Ian Smith, a measure which had never been accepted by the British Government or recognized by the international community.

Zimbabwe's full independence was achieved after long years of guerrilla warfare and negotiations: On 1 March 1978, the White minority Government had signed an internal agreement with three prominent Black leaders proposing the establishment of a transitional mixed Government, which should have prepared the country for a cease fire, draft a new Constitution and pave the way for a majority-rule Government. The new Constitution, which still had retained large powers for the White minority, had been approved by the White voters in a referendum held on 30 January 1979. As a result, elections had been held from 17 to 21 April 1979 to fill 100 seats in a new House of Assembly: 72 reserved for Blacks, 28 for Whites. The Constitution had also provided for a 30-member Senate comprised of 10 White and 20 Black Senators (including 10 Tribal Chiefs). The new Government of Bishop Muzorewa, composed of 12 Black and 5 White Ministers, had been installed on 30 May 1979, although largely contested within the country by the Patriotic Front of Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Nkomo and by the international community which refused to accept the new State of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. The British Government had announced at the Conference of the Member States of the Commonwealth, held in Lusaka in August 1979, that it would launch negotiations with the new Government and other protagonists in the continuing internal war in Zimbabwe and convene a constitutional conference in order to provide for a genuine majority-rule Government.

The Constitutional Conference opened at Lancaster House in London on 10 September 1979. The constitutional proposals tabled by the British Government were approved in October by the Muzorewa Government and the representatives of the Patriotic Front; the final agreement was signed on 21 December 1979. The Zimbabwe House of Assembly had denounced on 11 December the 1965 unilateral declaration of independence, and a British Governor, Lord Soames, was entrusted with organizing the transition to full independence, preparing the general election\* attended by Commonwealth observers and supervising the cease fire in the country which took effect on 28 December 1979, as agreed upon by the parties involved. The *Zimbabwe Constitutional Order 1979*

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 141.



(S.I. 1600 of 1979), issued in London on 6 December 1979, contains the text of the Constitution of the independent Republic of Zimbabwe. Independence was granted by the British Parliament in the form of the *Zimbabwe Act 1979*, assented to on 20 December 1979.

According to the Constitution, the bicameral Parliament, composed of a Senate and a House of Assembly, has full legislative powers. Any bill, other than a money bill, may be initiated in either House and to be passed as law requires the approval of both Houses. Money bills can only originate in the House of Assembly. In the case of a disagreement between the two Houses, the text of the bill as approved by the House of Assembly may be submitted to the President of the Republic for his assent 90 days following the transmittal of the bill from one House to the other. The Senate is invited to examine money bills within a period of eight days: it cannot reject or amend them but may recommend modifications which the House of Assembly may or may not approve. A bill with financial repercussions must have the endorsement of a Minister before it can be considered by Parliament. The Senate Legal Committee scrutinizes all bills and other legislation to verify their conformity with the Declaration of Rights contained in the Constitution.

Constitutional bills must receive the approval of a two-thirds majority of the total number of Senators and of 70 members of the House of Assembly. During a period of 10 years following the introduction of the 1979 Constitution, the unanimous agreement of all members of the House of Assembly is required for constitutional amendments concerning the provisions on fundamental rights, and for a period of seven years concerning the provisions on the composition of Parliament.

The Speaker of the House of Assembly and the President of the Senate are elected by their respective Houses from among the members of the House or from personalities outside Parliament. The presiding officers have no deliberative or casting vote. They can be removed from office by the decision of their respective Houses by a two-thirds majority vote of the total membership. The Secretary to Parliament is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Assembly following consultations with the President of the Senate and the approval of the House of Assembly. He can be removed from office by a decision of the House of Assembly taken by an absolute majority vote of all its members.

The President of the Republic is elected for six years by an electoral college composed of Senators and Members of the House of Assembly. His impeachment, on the grounds of misconduct or inability, is based on a report prepared by a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Assembly appointed at the request of the Prime Minister. The decision to remove the President from office is taken at a joint sitting of the two Houses by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total membership of Parliament.

The President of the Republic summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament. Parliament is dissolved if the Prime Minister does not resign from office within three days following adoption by the House of Assembly of a resolution of no confidence in the Government or if the office of Prime Minister is vacant and the President of the Republic is of the

opinion that there is no person who may secure the support of the majority of the members of the House of Assembly to act as a new Prime Minister.

The declaration of a state of public emergency must be approved by a resolution of the House of Assembly adopted by an absolute majority vote of all its members. During the state of emergency, the House of Assembly cannot be dissolved.





II

**CHRONICLE OF ELECTIONS**



## BENIN

**Date of Elections:** 20 November 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the Parliament established by the 1977 Constitution\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Benin, the National Revolutionary Assembly, consists of 336 members ("People's Commissioners") elected for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Beninese citizens who are at least 18 years of age and not insane or disqualified pursuant to court decision are entitled to vote and be elected to Parliament.

Electoral registers are compiled on the village and town ward level.

The parliamentarians represent socio-professional classes and mass organizations; all are members of the *Parti de la Révolution populaire du Bénin* (PRPB). The electoral process is comprised of three stages: "democratic consultation" ("*consultation démocratique*"), drawing up of the national list of candidates and the elections proper; the objective of the first (consultation) stage is the selection of candidates after extensive public debate. On polling day, the national list of the PRPB is submitted to the electorate for approval or rejection as a whole.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Following the 1970 general elections, a military Government was established in 1972, the National Assembly was dissolved and a National Council of the Revolution (CNR) was formed to carry out a progressive policy. In 1975, the *Parti de la Révolution populaire du Bénin* (PRPB) was established as the highest expression of the political will of the people of Benin. Two years later, the CNR adopted a Basic Law\* that aimed at a "popular democratic revolution"; it provided, *inter alia*, for a National Revolutionary Assembly as the supreme organ of the State.

The November election date was fixed in August 1979, at the ninth session of the Central Committee of the PRPB. There were three stages leading to selection of the Deputies. At the first, would-be contestants were screened and those who were suspected

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 8-9.



of corruption or "counter-revolutionary" leanings were cast aside. The next stage was marked by questioning of the candidates by the people at all levels—village, district and higher. Finally, on 20 November, the 336 nominees of the single PRPB list—which was drawn up by the Party's Central Committee—were overwhelmingly approved by the electorate. As planned, the new members represent socio-professional classes, not geographical constituencies.

In accordance with the Constitution, the CNR was dissolved on 4 February 1980 and replaced by the newly-elected Assembly. Two days later, Colonel Mathieu Kerekou was elected first President of the People's Republic of Benin by the members of the Assembly. During the Assembly's first session, a National Executive Council (Government) of 28 members was established.

## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Revolutionary Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	1,582,910
Voters . . . . .	1,275,461 (80.58%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	5,410
Valid votes . . . . .	1,270,051
<i>Votes in favour of the Parti de la Révolution populaire du Bénin</i> . . . . .	1,243,286 (97.9%)

### 2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Civil servants . . . . .	105
Peasants and craftsmen . . . . .	84
Party officials . . . . .	67
Military . . . . .	33
Workers . . . . .	33
Representatives of the middle class . . . . .	8
Clergy . . . . .	6
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## **BOLIVIA**

**Dates of Elections:** 1 July 1979  
29 June 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

*1 July 1979:* Elections were held for all the members of the Parliament provided for under the 1967 Constitution.  
*29 June 1980:* Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following premature dissolution of this body.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Bolivia, the Congress, is composed of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.  
The Senate has 27 members — 3 for each of the country's 9 departments.  
The Chamber of Deputies has 117 members.  
All parliamentarians are elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Bolivian citizens who are at least 21 years of age (or 18, if they are married) are entitled to vote.

A Deputy must be a Bolivian by birth who is at least 25 years of age, has fulfilled his military obligation, is literate, has not been condemned to corporal punishment and has no charges or writs of execution pending against him; the age requirement for being Senator is 35.

The office of member of Congress is incompatible with that of Minister, diplomatic agent, civil servant or employee, military or police officer on active duty, contractor for public works or services, and official of a State-related company or enterprise; certain ecclesiastics may also not simultaneously be members.

Candidates for Congress are nominated by political parties or certain legally-established citizens' groups affiliated to such parties. Deputies and Senators are elected by direct and universal suffrage.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The bicameral National Congress provided for under the 1967 Constitution was dissolved in 1969, and no national legislature thereafter existed. In July 1978, legislative

and presidential elections took place but were subsequently annulled\*. In November 1978, Gen. David Padilla Aranciba assumed power and announced that new elections would take place on 1 July 1979, with the new President and Congress assuming office on 6 August 1979, the Bolivian independence day.

For the July 1979 poll, candidates for the 144 Congress seats numbered 1,378. Leading contenders in the simultaneous presidential elections were Dr. Hernan Siles Zuazo of the leftist Democratic Popular Union (UDP) front, and Dr. Victor Paz Estenssoro of the centre-right Alliance of the National Revolutionary Movement (A-MNR, or MNR). Also in the running was the President from 1971 to 1978, Gen. Hugo Banzer Suarez, of the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN). UDP won the most votes overall on polling day, but MNR captured more Congress seats due to the fact that the electoral system favoured the sparsely populated regions (MNR strongholds) at the expense of urban areas (UDP constituencies). While a full Congress was chosen, none of the presidential candidates attained the required absolute majority and, in this context, Congress ultimately elected an interim President of the Republic. In January 1980, it was announced that legislative and presidential elections would once more be held, in June.

Again led by Mr. Siles Zuazo, the UDP emerged as the clear victor in the June congressional poll, but once again no presidential candidate won the absolute majority of votes required to capture this post outright. It was thus again for the newly-elected Congress to designate a President; it planned to do so on 4 August. Before this scheduled meeting, however, military leaders effected a coup d'Etat on 17 July, assuming power and annulling the recent elections. Army General Luis Garcia Meza became the new President on 18 July.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 8.



Statistics

1. Results of the 1 July 1979 Elections and Distribution  
of Seats in the Congress

Number of registered electors . . . . . 1,877,000 (approx.)

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Chamber of Deputies	Seats in Senate
Democratic Popular Union (UDP) . . . . .	528,696	35.98	37	8
Alliance of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) . . . . .	527,184	35.88	43	16
Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) . . . . .	218,587	14.88	21	3
Socialist Party (PS) . . . . .	70,765	4.81	6	—
Alliance for National Integration (APIN) . . . . .	60,262	4.10	6	—
Tupaj Katari Indian Movement (MITKA) . . . . .	28,344	1.93	1	—
Bolivian Unity Party (PUB) . . . . .	18,979	1.29	2	—
Workers' Vanguard (VO) . . . . .	16,560	1.13	1	—
			117	27

2. Provisional Results of the 29 June 1980 Elections and Distribution  
of Seats in the Congress

Political Group	Number of Seats in Congress
UDP . . . . .	57
MNR . . . . .	44
ADN . . . . .	30
PS . . . . .	11



## **BOTSWANA**

**Date of Elections:** 20 October 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the popularly-chosen members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Botswana, the National Assembly, has 37 members: 32 popularly elected, 4 specially elected or co-opted, and the Attorney-General, who sits *ex-officio* without the right to vote. The Speaker is in addition counted as a member if he is elected to this post and was not already a member of the Assembly. The life of the Assembly is 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of Botswana who are at least 21 years of age and who have either resided in Botswana for a continuous period of at least 12 months immediately preceding the date on which they apply for registration as voters or who were born in Botswana and are domiciled therein on the date of application are entitled to vote. No person is qualified to be registered as a voter if he is insane, owes allegiance to a foreign State, is under sentence of death or imprisonment of or exceeding six months, or is disqualified under any law relating to offences connected with the elections.

Electoral registers for each constituency are updated every three months by "supplementary rolls"; an amalgated "election roll" is in turn prepared, within each constituency, prior to each election. Voting is not compulsory.

Any qualified elector who is able to speak and read English well enough to take an active part in the proceedings of the National Assembly is qualified to be elected as a member of this House, unless he is an undischarged bankrupt. The parliamentary mandate is considered to be incompatible with membership of the House of Chiefs, certain public offices and an office connected with the elections.

Within his constituency, each candidate to the National Assembly must be nominated by two electors and supported by at least seven others. He must furthermore make a cash deposit which is returned to the candidate if he obtains one-twentieth of the total number of votes cast in his constituency.

For election purposes, Botswana is divided into 32 single-member constituencies. In each, that candidate who obtains the simple majority of the vote is declared elected.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.



## General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1979 general elections were the third such poll since the country attained full independence in 1966. Nomination day was held on 21 September 1979.

The ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) fielded candidates for all 32 elected seats. Its election manifesto, *inter alia*, declared a continued opposition to apartheid in South Africa and called for economic sanctions against Rhodesia.

Polling day was marked by a large turnout following an extensive Government campaign to improve voter participation. The BDP heightened its dominant position in the National Assembly.

On 23 October, Sir Seretse Khama was sworn in as President of the Republic for a fourth five-year term. He announced his Cabinet the same day.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	230,000 (approx.)
Voters . . . . .	134,000 (58%) (approx.)
Valid votes . . . . .	133,196

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats of Popularly-Elected Members
Botswana Democratic Party . .	32	100,398	75.4	29 (+ 2)
Botswana National Front . . .	16	17,480	13.1	2 (=)
Botswana People's Party . . . .	14	9,983	7.5	1 (− 1)
Botswana Independence Party .	5	5,057	3.8	− (− 1)
				<hr/> 32

## CANADA

**Date of Elections:** 18 February 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all members of the House of Commons. They were called in December 1979 when the Government was defeated on a vote of no confidence arising from its budget proposals. Previous general elections had taken place in May 1979.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Canada consists of the House of Commons and the Senate.

Under the British North America Acts, which are the basis of the Constitution, the representation of each of Canada's 10 provinces in the House of Commons is to be readjusted after each decennial census. A province is always, however, entitled to a number of Commons members not less than the number of its Senators. The present House of Commons is composed of 282 members. Of this current total, 95 members come from Ontario, 75 from Quebec, 28 from British Columbia, 21 from Alberta, 14 each from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 11 from Nova Scotia, 10 from New Brunswick, 7 from Newfoundland, 4 from Prince Edward Island, 2 from the Northwest Territories and 1 from the Yukon.

The number of Senators may not exceed 112, and at present stands at 104. All Senators are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. A total of 24 come from each one of Canada's 4 regions (Ontario, Quebec, the Maritime Provinces—Nova Scotia (10 Senators), New Brunswick (10) and Prince Edward Island (4)—and the Western Provinces—British Columbia (6), Alberta (6), Saskatchewan (6) and Manitoba (6)) while 6 Senators come from Newfoundland, 1 from the Northwest Territories, and 1 from the Yukon. A Senator holding office prior to 2 June 1965 is entitled to hold this post for life; if appointed after this date he must retire at the age of 75.

According to the Constitution, the duration of Parliament is limited to a maximum of 5 years. In practice, however, the House of Commons is generally renewed after 4 years, which is considered as the normal term of a legislature.

### **Electoral System**

All Canadian citizens who have attained the age of 18 years are entitled to vote. The franchise also extends to members of the armed forces under the age of 18. Disqualified, however, are persons convicted of certain electoral offences, inmates of penal institutions and the insane. Also unable to vote are the Chief and Assistant Chief Electoral Officer,

the returning officer for each district and every judge appointed by the Governor in Council.

All qualified electors are entitled to have their names entered on the register of electors for the polling division in which they ordinarily reside. These registers are prepared and revised on this level starting 49 days before election day. Voting is not compulsory. Advance polls are open on the ninth and seventh day before the ordinary polling day for certain categories of people. The following persons, when they have reason to believe that they will be unable to vote on any of the scheduled polling days, may appoint proxy voters from their own polling division: fishermen, mariners and prospectors, if absent in the course of their employment; the ill or physically handicapped; and full-time students registered at a Canadian educational institution.

All qualified electors may be candidates for the House of Commons. Ineligible for varying time periods, however, are persons convicted of electoral fraud or of a corrupt practice (seven years) or illegal practice (five years) connected with elections; certain public officers; members of provincial legislatures; and persons party to certain contracts and agreements having a connection with the Government.

All citizens at least 30 years old who are resident in the province for which appointed, who own land free of encumbrances to the value of C\$ 4,000 within that same province, and whose real and personal property together have a net worth of C\$ 4,000 are qualified to become Senators. In Quebec, where Senators represent districts of the province rather than the province as a whole, the residence requirement and property qualifications are considered at the district level.

In addition to the constitutional requirements of regional representation, age and property qualification, there are several criteria of selection of Senators; these are especially party patronage, interest or community group representation and distinguished service to the nation.

For the House of Commons, a minimum of 25 electors may nominate a candidate for each electoral district 21 to 28 days before an election. The mandatory deposit of C\$ 200 accompanying the nomination paper is returned when the candidate is elected or obtains at least one-half of the votes polled by the successful candidate; party candidates are reimbursed only if their duly registered political group has nominated at least 50 candidates in the general election.

Members of the House of Commons are elected by simple majority in single-member constituencies.

By-elections are held to fill vacancies in the House of Commons which arise between general elections. Vacancies in the Senate are filled by the Governor-General.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The minority Progressive Conservative Government formed in May 1979 fell on 13 December of the same year, after the adoption, by 139 votes to 133, of a motion of no



confidence in its budgetary policy, tabled by the New Democratic Party. The House of Commons was dissolved and, the following day, Prime Minister Joseph Clark announced that the elections would be held on 18 February 1980.

As at the May 1979 elections, Mr. Edward Broadbent, leader of the New Democratic Party, Mr. Clark, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, and Mr. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, head of the Liberal Party, opposed one another in the campaign, Mr. Trudeau having, on 18 December 1979, reversed his decision to resign as head of the Liberals.

The main campaign issue involved the Conservatives' draft budget which called for an 18 c. per gallon increase in excise tax on gasoline. If returned to power, the Liberals promised to eliminate this surtax. They also promised to reduce the unprecedented interest rates, as well as the rate of inflation.

On polling day, the Progressive Conservatives lost 33 seats as compared to their May 1979 total, while the Liberals made a gain of the same number. With respect to results in the various constituencies, the province of Quebec elected 73 Liberals and one Progressive Conservative. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon returned a total of 50 Progressive Conservatives and two Liberals. In the other provinces, the results were more mixed.

The Liberal Party thus attained an absolute majority position in the House of Commons, winning 147 of the 282 seats. Mr. Trudeau was re-elected Prime Minister on 18 February, regaining the post he had held until May 1979. The new Cabinet, composed of 33 Ministers, was sworn in on 3 March.

## Statistics

*1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the House of Commons*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	15,799,274
Voters . . . . .	11,013,241 (69.7%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	66,784
Valid votes . . . . .	10,946,457

Political Group	Number of Seats obtained	Number of Seats held prior to Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
Liberal Party . . . . .	147	114	114
Progressive Conservative Party . . . . .	103	136	136
New Democratic Party . . . . .	32	27	26
Social Credit Party . . . . .	—	5	6
Others . . . . .	—	—	—
	<hr/> 282	<hr/> 282	<hr/> 282

*2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according  
to Professional Category*

Lawyers, notaries, solicitors or barristers . . . . .	69
Businessmen, industrialists, managers, mer- chants . . . . .	51
Teachers . . . . .	30
Farmers, ranchers, fruit growers, agronomists . . . . .	21
Administrators . . . . .	20
Clergymen . . . . .	9
Physicians, veterinarians . . . . .	8
Political advisers . . . . .	8
Journalists . . . . .	6
Public servants . . . . .	6
Insurance agents . . . . .	6
Others . . . . .	54
	<hr/> 288*

\* This figure exceeds the numbers of MPs due to the fact that some of them listed two professions or occupations.

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex (10 April 1980)*

<i>House of Commons</i>		<i>Senate</i>	
Men . . . . .	268	Men . . . . .	90
Women . . . . .	14	Women . . . . .	11
	<hr/> 282		<hr/> 101*

\* 3 seats were vacant.

4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Age Group (April 1980)*

<i>House of Commons</i>		<i>Senate</i>	
Age Group	Number of Members	Age Group	Number of Senators
20-29 years . . . . .	11	36-45 years . . . . .	3
30-39 . . . . .	60	46-55 . . . . .	18
40-49 . . . . .	107	56-65 . . . . .	36
50-59 . . . . .	80	66-75 . . . . .	35
60-69 . . . . .	22	Over 75 . . . . .	9
70-79 . . . . .	2		<hr/> 101*
	<hr/> 282		

\* 3 seats were vacant.





## CONGO

**Date of Elections:** 8 July 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the Parliament which was reconstituted\* after having been dissolved in April 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of the People's Republic of the Congo, the People's National Assembly, consists of 153 members elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Congolese citizens at least 18 years of age who are in full possession of their civil and political rights, meet the prescribed residence requirements and are registered as electors are entitled to vote. Disqualified are persons convicted of crime and certain other offences, undischarged bankrupts and persons incompetent to manage their own affairs.

An electoral register is drawn up in each of the country's districts or communes. It is permanent and revised annually. Although voting is considered a civic duty, no sanction is imposed on abstentionists.

All qualified electors may be candidates for Parliament. The exercise of public functions is in principle not incompatible with the office of Deputy. This latter office is nevertheless incompatible with that of Minister, and any Deputy who uses his title to publicize a particular enterprise is suspended from Parliament for one year.

Lists of candidates are compiled by the Central Committee of the *Parti congolais du Travail* following "grass roots" consultation of the electorate by delegations composed of members of the Party and mass organizations. Candidates need not necessarily be Party members.

The 153 Assembly seats are allotted to representatives of the Party (69 seats), of mass organizations (36), of the armed forces (10), of the country's regions and the capital of Brazzaville (20), and of workers (18). The number of candidates equals the number of seats to be filled; all candidates appear on the same national list.

Deputies are elected by majority list system without vote splitting; voting is secret. By-elections are held to fill seats which fall vacant between general elections.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 9-10.

## General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Subsequent to the assassination of the President of the Republic, Marien Ngouabi, on 18 March 1977, the country was governed by a Military Committee of the Congolese Labour Party (*Parti congolais du Travail-PCT*). The *Acte fondamental* which was promulgated on 5 April 1977 largely abrogated the 1973 Constitution, and Parliament was dissolved the following day.

The PCT—the country's official political organization—held an extraordinary congress at the end of March 1979 and elected Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso President of the Republic; the latter was then also confirmed as Head of the Party. On 4 April, on the advice of the Party's Central Committee, Colonel Louis-Sylvain Goma was named Prime Minister and the other 16 members of the Council of Ministers were designated; according to the Constitution, the President of this Council is the Head of State. Seven Ministers in the former Government were not in the new Council.

The Electoral Law of 10 May 1979 set the framework for the 8 July 1979 poll. Principal campaign issues were "national détente", "revolutionary vigilance" and "the realization of left-wing unity". The Central Committee of the PCT nominated the Assembly candidates following consultation of the electorate, and these appeared on one national list. On polling day, the electorate also voted for the members of the people's councils of the regions, districts and communes. The poll moreover served as a referendum on a draft Constitution\*. All candidates were elected and the Constitution was approved. A total of 9.7% of the registered electorate abstained from voting.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 9-10.



## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the People's National Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	826,193
Voters . . . . .	746,082 (90.3%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	20,101
Valid votes . . . . .	725,981

Political Group	Number of Seats
Congolese Labour Party ( <i>Parti congolais du Travail</i> ) . . . . .	153

2. *Distribution of Deputies according  
to Professional Category*

Civil servants . . . . .	109
Members of the armed forces . . . . .	14
Workers . . . . .	12
Farmers . . . . .	7
Officials of State or semi-public enterprises . .	11
	<hr/> 153

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	140
Women . . . . .	13
	<hr/> 153

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

Under 30 years . . . . .	10
30-35 . . . . .	42
36-40 . . . . .	45
41-45 . . . . .	28
46-50 . . . . .	17
51-55 . . . . .	7
56 and over . . . . .	4
	<hr/> 153



## DENMARK

**Date of Elections:** 23 October 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following dissolution of this body. The Government had resigned on 28 September 1979 as a result of internal disagreement about economic policy, and writs for a new election were issued. Previous general elections had taken place in February 1977, and the normal expiry date of the legislature was February 1981.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Denmark, the *Folketing*, is composed of not more than 179 members elected for 4 years. Of this total, 2 are elected in the Faeroe Islands and 2 in Greenland.

### **Electoral System**

The right to vote at a *Folketing* election is held by every Danish subject of at least 18 years of age whose permanent residence is in Denmark, provided that he has not been declared incapable of conducting his own affairs. The age qualification for suffrage had been lowered from 20 to 18 years on 27 September 1978, following the referendum held on 19 September 1978.

Electoral registers are revised at the municipal level in January and February of each year. Voting is not compulsory. Postal voting is permitted particularly for the sick, the aged, prisoners and persons abroad.

Any person who has a right to vote at *Folketing* elections is eligible for membership of the *Folketing* unless he has been convicted "of an act which in the eyes of the public makes him unworthy of being a member of the *Folketing*".

Any elector can contest an election if his nomination is supported by a minimum number of electors of his constituency. This minimum number, in most constituencies, is 25. No monetary deposit is required. Each candidate must declare whether he will stand for a certain party or as an independent.

For electoral purposes, metropolitan Denmark (excluding Greenland and the Faeroe Islands) is divided into three areas—Greater Copenhagen, Jutland and the Islands. These areas are in turn subdivided, with the Copenhagen area comprising three large constituencies, and the Jutland and Islands each comprising seven county constituencies. Each of these constituencies is for its part divided into from two to 10 districts: there are altogether 103 of these districts. Two to 15 parliamentary seats are allocated to each constituency.



Members of the *Folketing* are chosen according to a list system of proportional representation. Each elector can cast either a "personal vote" for one of the candidates or a vote for one of the party lists. The elector may moreover cast a preferential vote within a party list. He can vote for any of the candidates or parties of his constituency, not being limited to those of his nomination district.

Of the 175 seats reserved for Denmark proper, 135 seats are distributed among the constituencies. The mandates in the constituencies are distributed among the political groups in contention according to a modified version of the St. Laguë method (whereby the total vote of each party in a constituency is divided by 1.4, 3, 5 and so on by odd numbers in order to arrive at the quotients on the basis of which seats are allocated). Utilization of this method ensures representation for smaller parties.

The 40 remaining, or supplementary, seats are then distributed among the parties which either have won at least one area seat; have obtained, in two electoral areas, at least as many votes as the average number of valid votes cast, in the area, per area seat; or have obtained at least 2% of all valid votes cast in the country as a whole. Such distribution, based on votes obtained on the national scale, is aimed at redressing the balance achieved through the distribution by constituencies.

When it has been decided which parties are entitled to a share of the supplementary seats, it is calculated, on the basis of the total number of votes cast for these parties in all parts of the country, how many seats each party is proportionately entitled to of the 175 seats. From the number of seats thus arrived at for each party, the number of area seats already obtained by the party is deducted. The number thus arrived at is the number of supplementary seats due to the party.

The end result of this rather involved electoral system is a distribution of seats in the *Folketing* that faithfully reflects the share of the popular votes received by the parties.

Candidates who have been nominated but not elected figure on a list of substitute members drawn up by the Ministry of Interior after each general election. These substitute members fill the seats of the *Folketing* which become vacant between general elections.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The 1979 elections were the fourth general elections in Denmark within a period of a little less than six years.

After the elections of 1977, the leader of the Social-Democratic Party, Mr. Anker Jørgensen, formed a minority Government. This Government was reorganized on 30 August 1978, when seven Ministers were appointed from the Liberal Party. As a result of disagreement between the two Government parties on economic policy, Prime Minister Jørgensen issued writs for a general election a little less than 18 months before expiry of the normal *Folketing* term.

At the 1979 election, 12 political parties nominated 1087 candidates for the 175 seats of metropolitan Denmark (excluding Greenland and the Faeroe Islands). The main

problems discussed during the campaign were the country's economic difficulties, particularly the ever-increasing foreign debt, persistent inflation and unemployment, as well as the role of the trade-unions in Government policy making. The Liberals together with the Centre Democrats, the Conservatives and the Christian People's Party put forward a joint programme for a non-socialist Government. The Social-Democrats presented a new version of the co-ownership plan in industry.

On polling day, the Conservatives, Radical Liberals and Socialist People's Party made progress, whereas the Centre Democrats and Progress Party declined. The Communist Party lost all its seats in the *Folketing*. The Social Democrats, with a gain of three seats, maintained their leading position in Parliament. Prime Minister Anker Jørgensen formed a minority Social Democratic Cabinet on 26 October.

## Statistics

1. *Results of Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Folketing*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	3,730,650
Voters . . . . .	3,194,345 (85.6%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	23,343
Valid votes . . . . .	3,171,002

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats obtained	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
Social-Democratic Party . . . . .	104	1,213,456	38.3	68	65	65
Progress Party . . . . .	102	349,243	11.0	20	26	26
Liberal Party . . . . .	98	396,484	12.5	22	21	21
Conservative Party . . . . .	86	395,653	12.5	22	15	15
Centre Democrats . . . . .	94	102,132	3.2	6	10**	11
Socialist People's Party . . . . .	103	187,284	5.9	11	7	7
Communist Party . . . . .	103	58,901	1.9	—	7	7
Radical Liberal Party . . . . .	98	172,365	5.4	10	6	6
Christian People's Party . . . . .	73	82,133	2.6	5	6	6
Single Tax Party . . . . .	91	83,238	2.6	5	6	6
Left Socialist Party . . . . .	84	116,047	3.7	6	5	5
				175*	174	175

\* Four more Deputies are elected in Greenland and the Faeroe Islands.

\*\* Before dissolution, one Deputy left the Centre Democrats.

*2. Distribution of Deputies according  
to Professional Category*

Personnel in administrative, clerical and commercial fields . . . . .	41
Managers and administrative executives . . .	30
Teachers . . . . .	28
Government employees . . . . .	19
Self-employed: liberal professions . . . . .	11
Farmers . . . . .	9
Self-employed: crafts and industry . . . . .	6
Skilled workers . . . . .	5
Housewives . . . . .	5
Self-employed: trade and transport . . . . .	4
Unskilled workers . . . . .	4
Technical employees . . . . .	3
Others . . . . .	14
	179

*3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	137
Women . . . . .	42
	179

*4. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

18-30 years . . . . .	5
30-40 . . . . .	49
40-50 . . . . .	61
50-60 . . . . .	48
60-70 . . . . .	16
	179





## GABON

**Date of Elections:** 24 February 1980

### Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of the National Assembly on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Gabon, the National Assembly, comprises 89 members. All parliamentarians have 5-year terms of office.

### Electoral System

All citizens of Gabon who are at least 21 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights, who have resided for six months—until 31 March of the current year—in a particular constituency, and who are registered on the electoral lists are entitled to vote. In certain cases, the age for being elector may be lowered to 18. Foreigners fulfilling the necessary conditions may also vote provided they were domiciled in Gabon on 17 August 1960, and have since that date maintained this domicile.

The names of convicted criminals (including those found guilty *in absentia*), those who have been sentenced to imprisonment for more than one month for certain offences against property, or for more than three months for other offences, the insane, undischarged bankrupts, and persons under guardianship cannot, however, be entered on the electoral lists. The right to vote is suspended for persons who are under personal restraint pursuant to judicial and administrative decisions. Certain individuals convicted of offences resulting in prison terms ranging from one to three months, or in fines exceeding Francs CFA 200,000 cannot, for their part, be registered for five years from the date when the judgment in their case became final.

Electoral lists are drawn up at the level of the district or commune. They are considered as permanent and are revised annually, from 1 December to 31 March. Voting is compulsory.

Candidates for election to Parliament must be members of, and put forward by, the single political party in the country, be at least 25 years of age and fulfil the conditions required for voting. Certain high officials of the Government, armed forces, police, judiciary and public enterprises are not eligible for a period of six months after occupying these posts. The office of Deputy is incompatible with membership of the Government, the Supreme Court or the Economic and Social Council, any non-elective public office,

employment remunerated by a foreign State or international organization, and the position of executive or consultant of State-subsidized enterprises.

Candidatures must be deposited with the Supreme Court at least 15 days prior to the election, accompanied by a deposit of Francs CFA 100,000. No candidature can be withdrawn once a list has been submitted.

Deputies are elected in a single constituency comprising the entire national territory, on the basis of the party-list majority system without preferential vote. The list of candidates must contain as many names as there are seats to be filled. A corresponding number of substitutes are elected at the same time as the titular Deputies. In the event of a vacancy and if the substitute is incapacitated, by-elections are held.

### General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Prior to the legislative elections, President of the Republic Omar Bongo was re-elected for a second seven-year term on 30 December 1979. The President had announced the date of the parliamentary elections the previous month.

For the first time since Gabon gained independence in 1960, independents were free to stand against candidates of the ruling *Parti démocratique gabonais* (PDG), the country's sole political organization. By presidential decree, the number of elected Deputies in the National Assembly was raised from 70 to 89.

On polling day, PDG candidates won the massive support of the electorate. Prime Minister Léon Mébiame announced the composition of a new 28-member Cabinet on 28 February.

### Statistics

#### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly*

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Parti démocratique gabonais</i> . . . . .	89

## GUINEA

**Date of Elections:** 27 January 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following the premature dissolution of this legislative body. General elections had previously been held in December 1974.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Guinea, the National People's Assembly, consists of 210 Deputies elected for 7 years. The former Assembly had been composed of 150 Deputies.

### **Electoral System**

All Guinean citizens who are at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote unless they have been convicted of certain crimes. Various legal provisions exist barring certain officials who by virtue of their office might be in a position to distort election results from participating in the poll.

Qualified electors who are at least 25 years of age and nominated by the *Parti démocratique de Guinée* (PDG)—the country's sole political organization—may be candidates for Parliament. The office of Deputy is incompatible with a number of public posts, membership of the armed and police forces and the office of minister of religion.

Assembly candidates appear on the national list of the PDG and are elected according to majority vote, the country as a whole constituting, for this purpose, a single constituency. Nominations are made at the latest 21 days prior to the polling date.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary seats which fall vacant between general elections, unless the vacancies occur during the last year of the legislature.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

In November 1979, at the 11th Congress of the ruling *Parti démocratique de Guinée* (PDG), the merging of the functions of the Party and State were announced, and the country was renamed the "Popular and Revolutionary Republic of Guinea". President Ahmed Sekou Touré—in office since 1958—reiterated Guinea's commitment to socialist aims but expressed its desire for co-operation with investors from the western world. In June 1979, a reshuffle of the Government took place.

On polling day, voters overwhelmingly approved the PDG list of candidates to the newly-enlarged Assembly (increased by 60 seats to 210).



Statistics

1. Results\* of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the National People's Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,506,298
Voters . . . . .	2,398,356 (95.69%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	4,756
Valid votes . . . . .	2,393,600
<i>Votes in favour of the Parti démocratique de Guinée . . . . .</i>	<i>2,393,600</i>

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
<i>Parti démocratique de Guinée . . . . .</i>	210	210

\* According to unofficial reports.

## HUNGARY

**Date of Elections:** 8 June 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Hungary, the National Assembly, is composed of 352 members elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Hungarian citizens who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote. Disqualified, however, are persons who have been disfranchised by court order, those under police surveillance or detention, and the insane.

Electoral registers are drawn up on the constituency level and revised before each election. A constituency absentee may be included on the electoral register of his temporary residence and vote in that constituency. Voting is not compulsory.

Candidates for the National Assembly must be qualified electors who have received the endorsement of the country's Patriotic People's Front. The parliamentary mandate is not incompatible with remunerative work, which the Deputies may continue to carry on throughout the duration of their mandate.

Prior to the elections and within each constituency, local committees of the Front organize voters' meetings in the communes, factories, offices and all working places, as well as for members of the army and police. Parliamentary candidates—who may be proposed by organs of the Front, social organizations, workers' collectives or individual voters—are chosen during these meetings. All those persons who receive at least one third of the votes of electors present at the meetings and who fulfill the conditions set by the statutes of the Front are endorsed. Several candidates may therefore contest the same seat.

Deputies are elected in 352 single-member constituencies. If, within a constituency, no candidate obtains an absolute majority of the votes in the course of the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second or subsequent ballots are held until these requirements are met.

By-elections are held within 12 months to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

As required by law, the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic set the date of the elections to the National Assembly 45 days in advance.

Lists of candidates to the Assembly are compiled by the Patriotic People's Front on the basis of nominations made at public meetings organized by over 3,700 local committees of the Front. The Front is a mass movement embracing the country as a whole. This collective assembly groups together the trade unions, various mass organizations, federations of national minorities and clergy; on this basis, it unites the forces of society with a view to promoting the full construction of socialism and the solution of political, economic and cultural tasks, and participates in the activities of the organs of popular representation.

At the pre-election voters' meetings, two candidates received the necessary support to stand as candidates in 15 of the country's 352 constituencies. There were consequently a total of 367 candidates for the Assembly seats. Their names were made public at least 10 days before polling day.

The Prime Minister (Chairman of the Council of Ministers) is Mr. György Lázár.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the National Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	7,809,407
Voters . . . . .	7,577,401 (97%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	60,738
Valid votes . . . . .	7,516,663

Political Group	Number of Seats
Patriotic People's Front . . . . .	352

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to  
Professional Category*

Workers . . . . .	158
Intellectuals . . . . .	147
Farmers . . . . .	46
Other . . . . .	1
	<hr/> 352

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	246
Women . . . . .	106
	<hr/> 352

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

Under 30 years . . . . .	44
31-35 . . . . .	29
36-40 . . . . .	43
41-45 . . . . .	31
46-50 . . . . .	51
51-55 . . . . .	63
56-60 . . . . .	53
61-65 . . . . .	16
66-70 . . . . .	16
Over 70 . . . . .	6
	<hr/> 352





## ICELAND

**Dates of Elections:** 2 and 3 December 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following the premature dissolution of this body in November 1979. General elections had previously been held in June 1978.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Parliament of Iceland, the *Althing*, is divided into two Houses: the *Eefri deild*, or Upper House, and the *Nedri deild*, or Lower House. When, as often happens, both Houses work together, Parliament is known as the United *Althing*.

The Upper House consists of one-third of the members whom the *Althing* chooses from amongst the newly-elected representatives, the remaining two-thirds forming the Lower House. Each House and the United *Althing* elects its own Speaker.

The *Althing* comprises 60 members, all elected for a 4-year term.

### **Electoral System**

All Icelandic subjects who are at least 20 years of age and have been domiciled in the country for no less than five years prior to the elections have the right to vote. Electors must furthermore be of unblemished character and financially responsible.

Electoral registers are drawn up by municipal councils at the latest two months before the election date. Voting is not compulsory.

Every citizen qualified to vote is eligible for the *Althing*, with the exception of judges who do not hold administrative office. Civil servants do not require governmental permission to stand for election. However, once elected, they must ensure that, throughout their term of office, their duties are carried out in a satisfactory manner and at no additional cost to the Treasury.

Of the 60 popularly elected members of the *Althing*, 25 are elected according to the d'Hondt method of proportional representation in five constituencies of five members each; 12 are elected in two constituencies of six members each; 12 are elected in the city of Reykjavik; and 11 supplementary members—deemed nationally elected—are chosen for equalization between those parties which have obtained at least one constituency seat, so that each of them is represented in Parliament as nearly as possible in proportion to the number of votes obtained in the general election.

Candidates for Parliament appear on party or non-party lists in all constituencies. Each list generally contains twice the number of members to be elected in the constituency.

Deputy members elected at the same time as fully-fledged members fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections, in the order of their appearance on the list concerned.

### General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As reported in the XIIth *Chronicle*, formation of a Government following the June 1978 general elections involved lengthy negotiations, with three parties—the Social Democrats, People's Alliance (Communists) and Progressives—ultimately agreeing to rule jointly. This Government broke down in October 1979, when the Social Democrats withdrew from the centre-left coalition in protest against what they regarded as the Government's failure to strengthen the economy, in particular to curb the country's high inflation rate. In view of the December elections, a caretaker administration was then formed by Mr. B. Gröndal, the Social Democratic leader.

Election campaign debates once again focused primarily on the question of inflation: the conservative Independence Party, which held the most seats in the outgoing Parliament, promised tough measures to deal with the problem.

On polling day, the Independence and centre Progressive parties recorded gains. As in 1978, the elections were followed by protracted inter-party negotiations. Finally, in early February 1980, a coalition of the two above-mentioned gainers and the People's Alliance was decided upon. The new Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Gunnar Thoroddsen (Independence Party), took office on 8 February.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Althing

Number of registered electors . . . . .	143,200 (approx.)
Voters . . . . .	127,729 (89.2%)

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Independence Party . . . . .	43,841	35.4	21 (+ 1)
Progressive Party . . . . .	30,871	24.9	17 (+ 5)
People's Alliance . . . . .	24,390	19.7	11 (– 3)
Social Democratic Party . . . . .	21,578	17.4	10 (– 4)
Others . . . . .	2,341	2.6	1 (+ 1)
			60

## INDIA

**Dates of Elections:** 3 and 6 January 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all popularly-chosen members of the *Lok Sabha* following the premature dissolution of this House on 22 August 1979. General elections had previously been held in March 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of India consists of the *Lok Sabha* (House of the People) and the *Rajya Sabha* (Council of States).

The prescribed maximum strength of the *Lok Sabha* is 547. It currently has 544 members, of whom 542 are elected for 5 years and 2 are nominated by the President of the Republic to represent the Anglo-Indian Community. In accordance with the Constitution, 119 seats are set aside for Scheduled Castes (79) and Scheduled Tribes (40) elected in as many "reserved" constituencies.

The prescribed maximum strength of the *Rajya Sabha* is 250 members, of whom 12 are to be nominated by the President of the Republic and 238 indirectly elected by the Assemblies of the States and Union Territories. All members have 6-year terms of office, one-third of them retiring every 2 years. The present strength is 244.

### **Electoral System**

Every Indian citizen aged 21 years or over who is ordinarily resident in a constituency may vote therein if he is not disqualified on grounds of insanity, crime or electoral offences.

Electoral registers are normally revised before general and by-elections in all constituencies. Voting is not compulsory. Postal voting is permitted for certain public officials, members of the armed forces, police forces serving in another State and Government employees abroad.

Qualified electors who are at least 25 years old are eligible to be candidates for the *Lok Sabha*. Requirements for the *Rajya Sabha* are 30 years of age and residence in the State or Union Territory where election is sought. Disqualified from being a member of either House are undischarged bankrupts and persons owing allegiance to a foreign State. No members of the armed forces or persons holding certain offices of profit, whether public offices or Government contractors, can at the same time be members of Parliament.

Candidates must be nominated by one qualified elector and make a deposit of 500 rupees (250 rupees for those standing for seats representing the Scheduled Castes or Tribes), which, in the case of the *Lok Sabha*, is refunded if the candidate is elected or



obtains more than one-sixth of the total of valid votes polled in his constituency and, in the case of the *Rajya Sabha*, if he obtains more than one-sixth of the number of votes prescribed as sufficient to secure the return of a candidate. An individual who is candidate for both Houses may be fully reimbursed if he fulfils these two requirements.

The 542 members of the *Lok Sabha* are elected by simple majority vote in a like number of constituencies. Popularly chosen members of the *Rajya Sabha* are elected indirectly by the 23 Legislative Assemblies of the States and Union Territories in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, with each elector indicating his order of preference among the candidates; each constituency has from one to 34 seats, depending on its population.

By-elections are held to fill vacant seats of elected members between general elections. Nominated seats are filled through nomination of the President.

### General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

On 22 August 1979, President of the Republic N. S. Reddy dissolved the *Lok Sabha* in the midst of a political crisis touched off by a stream of defections from the *Janata* (People's) Party that had ruled India since the previous general elections of March 1977. The January election dates were announced on 26 October, two separate voting days and a three-day interval being required due to the size of the electorate.

The consequently weakened *Janata* Group was chiefly opposed by the Congress (I) party headed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It will be recalled that the Congress party incurred heavy losses in 1977 after having for years been the dominant political force. Congress (I), a breakaway group, was founded by Mrs. Gandhi in 1978. *Janata* was led by Mr. Jagjivan Ram. Another leading contender was *Lok Dal*, founded in 1979 and headed by Mr. Charan Singh, Prime Minister after the toppling of Mr. Morarji Desai (*Janata*) in July 1979 and, at the request of President Reddy, holder of the same post as head of the caretaker Government following dissolution.

During the campaign—which officially began in early December—Mrs. Gandhi laid greatest emphasis on domestic issues, especially the reduction of inflation, social problems and the restoration of law and order.

Voting in 17 of the 542 constituencies was postponed because of disturbances, deaths of candidates or climatic conditions. Some 4,600 candidates vied for the 525 other seats.

On the polling days, Congress (I) gained a large triumph, capturing 351 *Lok Sabha* seats. None of the other parties won the percentage of seats required to qualify as the official opposition party, *Janata* winning only 32, *Lok Dal* 41. The country's two Communist parties together won 46 seats and the Congress faction opposed to Mrs. Gandhi captured 13. Congress (I) also received promises of support from a number of legislators elected as independents or members of regional parties.

On 10 January, President Reddy asked Mrs. Gandhi to form a Government.

In April 1980, partial elections for the *Rajya Sabha* were held\*.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 15.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Lok Sabha*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	354,024,081
Voters . . . . .	201,269,129 (56.8%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	4,884,424
Valid votes . . . . .	196,384,705

Political Group	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held in August 1979
Congress (I) and allied parties		
Congress (I) . . . . .	351	80
<i>Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</i> . . . . .	16	1
National Conference . . . . .	3	2
Moslem League . . . . .	3	2
Kerala Congress (Joseph group) . . . . .	1	2
<i>Lok Dal (Janata Secular)</i> . . . . .	41	77
<i>Janata Party</i> and allied parties		
<i>Janata Party</i> . . . . .	31	203
<i>Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam</i> . . . . .	2	17
<i>Akali Dal</i> . . . . .	1	8
Congress . . . . .	13	56
Left Front		
Communist Party of India (Marxist) . . . . .	35	22
Communist Party of India . . . . .	11	7
Revolutionary Socialist Party . . . . .	4	4
Forward Bloc . . . . .	3	3
Kerala Congress (Mani group) . . . . .	1	—
Others . . . . .	3	19**
Independents . . . . .	6	33
	525*	536***

\* There are 544 *Lok Sabha* seats. Elections in 17 constituencies were postponed. Two members are nominated.

\*\* Including the two nominated members.

\*\*\* Excluding eight vacancies.



## IRAN

**Dates of Elections:** 14 March and 9 May 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the first Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the National Consultative Assembly (*Majlis Chorayé Melli*)\*\*, comprises 270 members elected for 4 years. According to the 1980 Constitution, the Zoroastrians and Jews have one representative each, the Assyrian and Chaldean Christians together have one representative, and the Armenian Christians of the South and North each elect one representative.

### **Electoral System**

As the Parliament was meeting for the first time since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in the absence of an electoral law, the elections were organized according to a system proposed by the Ministry of Interior and approved by the Council of the Revolution, which has held legislative and executive power since February 1979.

All Iranian citizens who are at least 16 years of age are entitled to vote in elections. Deputies are elected directly and by secret ballot in two rounds.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The legislative elections were the first to be held in Iran since the overthrow of the monarchy. Polling results gave the Islamic Republican Party (IRP) 130 seats out of 247. Elections in 23 constituencies in Kurdistan and Baluchistan were postponed. In addition, the mandates of several Deputies were not validated by the Parliament.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 16-17.

\*\* The official authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran now call the Parliament the Islamic Consultative Assembly (*Majlis Chorayé Eslami*).





## IRAQ

**Date of Elections:** 20 June 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament provided for under the new Electoral Law of March 1980\*. General legislative elections had not been held in Iraq since 1958.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Iraq, the National Council, comprises 250 members elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Iraqi citizens who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote. Electoral registers are compiled on the constituency level; voting is not compulsory.

In 1980, candidates for the National Council had to be literate and at least 25 years of age. Furthermore, they must have been Iraqi by birth, from Iraqi parents by birth or from an Iraqi father by birth and a mother from one of the Arab countries; upheld the principles and aims of the July 1968 progressive and socialist revolution; completed military service or been exempted from it; not been expropriated landowners from whom land was taken under the Agrarian Reform Law, or whose properties were nationalized or confiscated by the State; not been convicted of crimes related to the State's internal or external security after the July 1968 revolution; not been convicted for violating public confidence, harming the national economy and the State's financial confidence, violating public morality, or misdemeanour; and not have had a record of imprisonment for murder for a period not less than 15 years.

For the 1980 poll, the country was divided into 56 electoral districts, each having a minimum of 250,000 inhabitants; one Deputy represents every 50,000 people.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The 1958 military coup d'Etat which overthrew the monarchy resulted in the dissolution of the National Assembly. Ten years later, supreme governing authority was vested in a Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), whose Chairman was also President of the Republic.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 17.

In December 1979, the 17-member RCC invited political, trade union and popular organizations to debate a draft law which provided for a 250-member National Council; this law was adopted on 16 March 1980.

Some 860 candidates—including 19 women—contested the Assembly seats. Although candidates ran without party affiliation, the majority were members of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, a revolutionary movement that has ruled the country since 1968, at times in alliance with the Iraqi Communist Party. Candidates also included members of the Kurdistan Revolutionary and Democratic parties, both supporters of the Baath-led National Progressive Front, as well as independents.

Polling day was marked by a high turnout of voters. On 1 July, the new National Council was formally opened. The President of the Republic is Mr. Saddam Hussain, who assumed power in July 1979.

## Statistics

### *1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Council*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	6,000,000 (approx.)
Voters . . . . .	85% (approx.)

## JAPAN

**Dates of Elections:** 7 October 1979  
22 June 1980

### Purpose of Elections

*7 October 1979:* Elections were held for all the members of the House of Representatives after its dissolution on 7 September 1979. Previous elections had taken place on 10 December 1976 and the normal expiry date of the House was 9 December 1980.

*22 June 1980:* Elections were held for all the members of the House of Representatives following premature dissolution of this body on 19 May 1980. General elections had previously been held on 7 October 1979.

Elections were simultaneously held for half (126) the members of the House of Councillors on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Japan, the Diet, consists of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors.

The House of Representatives is composed of 511 members elected for 4 years.

The House of Councillors comprises 252 members, elected for 6 years, half of whom are renewed every 3 years.

### Electoral System

All Japanese citizens who are at least 20 years old are entitled to vote if their domicile has been recorded in a constituency for at least three months and unless they have been adjudged incompetent or have yet to complete or start execution of a sentence of confinement or more severe punishment. Any person who has been sentenced to punishment for electoral offences has neither voting rights nor electoral eligibility for a period fixed in accordance with the punishment.

Electoral registers are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory. Proxy voting is allowed for illiterate or physically incapacitated electors.

Qualified electors who are 25 years of age or over are eligible for the House of Representatives; the age qualification for the House of Councillors is 30. A member of the Diet cannot concurrently hold any official post in the Government or in any local public entity, or any post of officer or member of the staff of a public corporation. However, a member may, during his term of office, be appointed as a member of a commission, advisor, counsellor or other functionary of similar nature in any executive branch of the Cabinet, on a concurrent decision of both Houses. The office of member of the Diet is



compatible with the post of Prime Minister, State Minister, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Deputy Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, Parliamentary Vice-Minister or where otherwise provided by law.

A candidate for the House of Representatives must make a monetary deposit of 1,000,000 yen (approximately US\$ 4,500), which is forfeited if he does not obtain at least one-fifth of the number resulting from division of the total of valid ballots by the fixed number of members in the constituency concerned.

For election of Representatives, Japan is divided into 130 districts. The number of members to be elected in each varies from three to five, with the exception of one single-member district.

Each elector votes for only one of the candidates in his district. Depending on the number of seats to be filled, those candidates are declared elected who have obtained the most votes, provided that this total is equivalent to at least one-fourth of the number resulting from division of the total of valid votes cast in the constituency by the number of seats to be filled.

Of the 252 members of the House of Councillors, 152 members are elected from prefectural constituencies, each of which is entitled to from two to eight seats, according to the same system as that established for the election of Representatives, with the difference that, to be elected, the leading candidates must receive a number of votes equal to or greater than one-sixth of the total of valid ballots cast, divided by the number of seats to be filled from the constituency.

The remaining 100 Councillors are elected by the nation at large, the territory of the entire country forming one single constituency and the minimum number of votes required for a candidate to be elected being, in this case, one-eighth of the electoral quotient.

A Diet seat which falls vacant within three months of an election is filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the same party, provided that he obtained the statutory number of votes. A by-election is held in other cases or if several seats become vacant in the same constituency.

## **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

*7 October 1979*

The House of Representatives was dissolved on 7 September 1979 on the initiative of the Prime Minister, Mr. Masayoshi Ohira. At that time the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) led by the Prime Minister, which had been in power for more than 20 years, had 249 members in the House, supported by several independents, out of a total of 511 members. As he had said in public statements, Mr. Ohira considered that this majority was too narrow and that he needed at least 271 seats. The results of regional and local elections held shortly before, particularly in Tokyo and Okinawa, appeared to indicate that the LDP was in good position to secure such a majority. Furthermore, unemployment and inflation figures revealed a more stable economic situation than at the time of the general

elections in 1976. However, the country's budgetary deficit was considerable and Mr. Ohira announced at the beginning of September that he intended to introduce a VAT-style sales tax to counteract it and also to reduce oil consumption.

During the election campaign it became clear that the voters as a whole were not in favour of the sales tax and that the Party itself was far from endorsing it unanimously. It was announced that introduction of the tax would be postponed but the effect of the proposal was not completely eliminated. Practices such as those revealed in the Lockheed bribes affair, administrative reforms and the energy crisis were also widely discussed.

On polling day, the Liberal-Democratic Party received almost 3% more of the votes than in 1976, but as it was not concentrated, this increase did not result in more seats. In the days after the election, independent MPs rallied to the LDP which thus had 257 members on 31 October 1979. Among other political parties, the Communist Party, with a share of the votes similar to 1976, more than doubled its number of seats (19 in 1976; 41 on 31 October 1979), after focusing its efforts on those constituencies where it had the best chances.

Briefly, the Liberal-Democratic Party retained its dominant position, but did not obtain the absolute majority on which it had appeared to be counting before the elections. Mr. Ohira publicly conceded that his Party had suffered a setback. His own position in the LDP, despite its gains in the elections, was somewhat impaired. On 6 November 1979 he was re-elected Prime Minister in the House of Representatives by 138 votes to 121 votes for Mr. Fukuda. The elections did not particularly clarify the conditions of Government activity in its relations with Parliament.

#### 22 June 1980

On 16 May, Prime Minister M. Ohira of the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) decided to dissolve the House of Representatives after having been defeated in a parliamentary vote of no confidence. The dissolution of this House was thus the second in less than a year, Representatives having been elected seven months earlier, on 7 October 1979.

The crucial motion expressed a lack of confidence in the Ohira administration because of certain political corruption scandals and inflation. Some 70 LDP legislators from anti-Ohira factions headed, among others, by former Prime Ministers T. Fukuda and T. Miki, abstained in the vote.

In the midst of the three-week campaign, participated in by 835 candidates, Mr. Ohira suddenly died. Important issues debated included those on national defence spending and nuclear energy.

The unprecedented simultaneous polling for both Houses of the Diet was considered a factor in provoking a strong turnout. On polling day, the conservative LDP made convincing advances, gaining 36 more Representatives' seats than in October 1979 and increasing its overall Councillors' total to 135—absolute majorities in both Houses. At the other end of the scale, *Komeito* (Clean Government Party) and the Communist Party of Japan incurred significant losses in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Ohira's death necessitated the designation of a new LDP leader, who turned out to be Mr. Zenko Suzuki. His Cabinet was sworn in on 17 July.

## Statistics

7 October 1979

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the House of Representatives*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	80,169,924
Voters . . . . .	54,518,515 (68%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	508,394
Valid votes . . . . .	54,010,121

Political Group	Number of Candi- dates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats obtained**	Number of Seats held at Dis- solution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
Liberal-Democratic Party .	322	24,084,140	44.59	248 (257)	249	249
Japan Socialist Party . .	157	10,643,450	19.71	107 (106)	117	123
Japan Communist Party .	128	5,625,527	10.42	39 (41)	19	17
<i>Komeito</i> . . . . .	64	5,282,682	9.78	57 (58)	56	55
Democratic Socialist Party	53	3,663,691	6.78	35 (36)	28	29
New Liberal Club . . . .	31	1,631,811	3.02	4 (4)	13	17
Social Democratic Federa- tion . . . . .	7	368,660	0.68	2 (2)	3	—
Other groups . . . . .	8	69,100	0.13	— (—)	—	—
Independents . . . . .	96	2,641,064	4.89	19 (7)	7	21
				511	492*	511

\* 19 seats were vacant at dissolution.

\*\* Figures in brackets indicate the distribution of seats among the parties on 31 October 1979: 14 independent members have gained party affiliation since the elections; the Speaker and Vice-Speaker became independents.

2. *Distribution of Representatives according  
to Professional Category*

Officials of political parties . . . . .	172
Directors of associations or organizations . .	144
Members of executive boards of corporations .	67
Ministers and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers, etc.	30
Lawyers . . . . .	29
Farmers . . . . .	17
Teachers . . . . .	10
Writers . . . . .	10
Doctors . . . . .	7
Others . . . . .	25
	<hr/> 511

3. *Distribution of Representatives according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	500
Women . . . . .	11
	<hr/> 511

4. *Distribution of Representatives according to Age Group*

25-29 years . . . . .	1
30-34 . . . . .	5
35-39 . . . . .	21
40-44 . . . . .	39
45-49 . . . . .	66
50-54 . . . . .	117
55-59 . . . . .	78
60-64 . . . . .	81
65-69 . . . . .	63
70 and over . . . . .	40
	<hr/> 511



22 June 1980

*5. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the House of Representatives*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	80,925,034
Voters . . . . .	60,338,440 (74.56%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	1,309,603
Valid votes . . . . .	59,028,837

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution
Liberal-Democratic Party . .	310	28,262,441	47.9	284	258
Japan Socialist Party . . . .	149	11,400,747	19.3	107	107
<i>Komeito</i> . . . . .	64	5,329,942	9.0	33	58
Democratic Socialist Party .	50	3,896,728	6.6	32	36
Communist Party of Japan .	129	5,803,613	9.8	29	41
New Liberal Club . . . . .	25	1,766,396	3.0	12	4
Social Democratic Federation	5	402,832	0.7	3	2
Others . . . . .	42	109,168	0.1	—	—
Independents . . . . .	61	2,056,967	3.5	11	4
				511	510*

\* Plus one vacancy.

*6. Distribution of Seats in the House of Councillors*

Political Group	Number of Seats won at 1980 Elections	Total Number of Seats
Liberal-Democratic Party . . . . .	69	135
Japan Socialist Party . . . . .	22	47
<i>Komeito</i> . . . . .	13	26
Communist Party of Japan . . . . .	7	12
Democratic Socialist Party . . . . .	5	12
New Liberal Club . . . . .	—	2
Social Democratic Federation . . . . .	1	1
Others . . . . .	9	16
	126	251*

\* Plus one vacancy.

*7. Distribution of Members of the Diet according  
to Professional Category*

	Representatives	Councillors
Directors of associations or organizations . . . . .	181	83
Officials of political parties . . . . .	151	56
Members of executive boards of corporations . . .	63	17
Lawyers . . . . .	30	7
Ministers and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers, public officers, etc. . . . .	21	51
Agriculture and Forestry . . . . .	15	7
Teachers . . . . .	12	13
Writers . . . . .	12	—
Doctors . . . . .	6	4
Others . . . . .	20	13
	<hr/> 511	<hr/> 251*

*8. Distribution of Members of the Diet according to Sex*

	Representatives	Councillors
Men . . . . .	502	234
Women . . . . .	9	17
	<hr/> 511	<hr/> 251*

*9. Distribution of Members of the Diet according to Age Group*

	Representatives	Councillors
25-29 years . . . . .	1	—
30-34 . . . . .	6	}
35-39 . . . . .	29	5
40-44 . . . . .	40	}
45-49 . . . . .	56	34
50-54 . . . . .	112	}
55-59 . . . . .	85	96
60-64 . . . . .	76	}
65-69 . . . . .	61	84
70 and over . . . . .	45	32
	<hr/> 511	<hr/> 251*

\* Plus one vacancy.



## KENYA

**Date of Elections:** 8 November 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the popularly-chosen members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Kenya, the National Assembly, is composed of 158 elected members; 12 nominated members appointed by the President of the Republic from among persons qualified to be elected as members of the Assembly; and the Speaker and the Attorney-General, who are *ex-officio* members. The Speaker is elected by the Assembly from among persons who are members of the Assembly or are qualified to be such. The Attorney-General has no voting rights. The normal term of Parliament is 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of Kenya over the age of 18 years are entitled to vote if they are registered as electors and have resided in the country for not less than one year immediately preceding the date of the elections, or for periods totalling not less than four years during the eight years before the elections. To be qualified electors, persons must moreover have resided, carried on a business, been employed or owned land or residential buildings in the constituency where they apply to be registered for at least five of the 12 months preceding the elections. Those persons who are declared to be of unsound mind, undischarged bankrupts, or those detained in lawful custody or disqualified from voting after having been convicted or reported guilty of an offence connected with the elections may not vote.

Postal voting is permitted for election officers, certain employees who cannot have time off for voting, and persons who, on polling day, are travelling abroad or cannot get to a polling station by reason of ill-health or infirmity.

Qualified electors who are over the age of 21 years, are able to speak and read the Swahili and English languages well enough to take an active part in the proceedings of the National Assembly and who are nominated by a political party may be candidates for Parliament. Not qualified to be elected are persons under allegiance to a foreign State, those under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding six months (except for failure to pay a fine), those having a direct interest in contracts made with the Government, as prescribed by the Parliament, and those persons holding or acting in any office in the



public service, in the armed forces or in any local government authority, or in any office involving responsibility in connection with the conduct of an election to the National Assembly.

Candidates are nominated at preliminary elections for the selection of party candidates, which are held by secret ballot within the constituencies.

The 158 popularly-chosen members of Parliament are elected in an identical number of constituencies by simple majority vote.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The legislative term of the National Assembly elected in 1974 expired on 25 September 1979. The date of the general election was announced on 1 October. It was the third general election since Kenya became independent and the first since the death of President Jomo Kenyatta.

There were 742 candidates for the 158 seats to be filled. All of them belonged to KANU (Kenya African National Union), which has been the country's sole political party since 1969.

The election campaign aroused great interest in the country. A large number of leading personalities relinquished their posts, as required by the Electoral law, in order to stand as candidates.

Although all the candidates were members of KANU, more than half of the outgoing members of Parliament lost their seats, including seven Ministers and some twelve of their colleagues. Thus, most of the MPs elected were entering Parliament for the first time.

On 11 October, it was announced that President Daniel Arap Moi had been declared the sole candidate for the presidency. On 28 November, he announced the composition of the new Government, which comprised 25 Ministers, including 3 Ministers of State. He also proceeded to appoint 10 of the 12 nominated members to complete the composition of the National Assembly. None of the Ministers defeated in the elections were among them.

### **Statistics**

#### *1. Results of the Elections*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	5,602,110
Voters . . . . .	3,792,493 (67.69%)
Blank on void ballot papers . . . . .	58,956
Valid votes . . . . .	3,733,537

## MEXICO

**Date of Elections:** 1 July 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Mexico, the National Congress, consists of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

The Chamber of Deputies currently has 400 members, of whom 300 are elected by majority vote and 100 according to proportional representation\*. All Deputies have 3-year terms of office.

The Senate comprises 64 members elected for 6 years. Two members represent each of the country's 31 States and the Federal District.

### **Electoral System**

All Mexican citizens who are at least 18 years of age and registered in their constituency of residence are entitled to vote. Excluded from this right are the insane, interned drug addicts, persons convicted of a crime involving liability to imprisonment and persons serving a prison sentence.

Electoral registers are continually kept up to date. Voting is compulsory, abstention leading to a fine or imprisonment.

All citizens by birth at least 21 years of age and in full possession of their political rights may stand for election to the Chamber of Deputies from their State or territory of origin or that in which they have resided for at least six months; the age requirement for Senators is 30.

Ministers of religion, members of the federal army on active duty, police officers of a commanding rank within the district concerned, Secretaries or Under-Secretaries of State, justices of the Supreme Court and Governors of the States are not eligible for the Congress; apart from religious ministers, such disqualification can be overridden if the officials concerned resign from their positions 90 days before the election. Governors cannot be elected in the districts of their jurisdiction during their term of office, even if they resign their position.

In 1979, Deputies were chosen for the first time in accordance with the 1977 Federal Law on Political Organizations and Electoral Procedure\*. Of the 400 members, 300 were

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 20.

elected by simple majority vote within single-member electoral districts, and 100 were elected by a system of proportional representation from regional party lists within multi-member constituencies. Senators are all elected by simple majority vote.

A political party may be registered if it has at least 3,000 members in each one of at least half the States in Mexico or at least 300 members in each of at least half of the single-member constituencies. In either case the total number of members must be no less than 65,000. A party can also obtain conditional registration if it has been active for at least four years. Registration is confirmed if the party obtains at least 1.5% of the popular vote.

When a vacancy occurs among members of the Congress elected by majority vote, a by-election is called by the Chamber in question; when a vacancy occurs among members of the Chamber of Deputies elected by proportional representation, it is filled by the candidate of the same party who received the next highest number of votes at the last ordinary election.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Supported by President of the Republic José Lopez Portillo, a primary aim of the 1977 Federal Law described above was to allow political parties other than the dominant *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI) to improve their representation in Congress. This was achieved in the 1979 elections, as the moderately left-wing PRI won 296 (of the 300 directly elected) Deputies' seats (including all 40 in Mexico City), while the 104 others were shared by six different parties.

On polling day, although three new groups—the Mexican Communist Party, the conservative Mexican Democratic Party and the Workers' Socialist Party—fielded candidates, less than half of the country's registered electorate turned out to vote. The rightist *Partido Acción Nacional* (PAN) came out on top among smaller parties, capturing 43 seats; it was followed by the Communist Party, with 18 seats.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Chamber of Deputies

Number of registered electors . . . . .		27,912,053
		<i>Majority vote</i>
		<i>Proportional representation vote</i>
Voters . . . . .	13,888,513 (49.76%)	13,801,232 (49.44%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . .	810,572	866,072
Valid votes . . . . .	13,077,941	12,935,160

Political Group	Majority votes obtained	%	Seats	Proportional represen- tation votes obtained	%	Seats	Total Seats
<i>Partido Revolucionario Ins- titucional</i> . . . . .	9,699,455	74.17	296	9,411,682	72.76	—	296
<i>Partido Acción Nacional</i> .	1,490,486	11.40	4	1,523,728	11.78	39	43
<i>Partido Comunista Mexi- cano</i> . . . . .	690,537	5.28	—	702,903	5.43	18	18
<i>Partido Popular Socialista</i> .	357,500	2.73	—	387,036	2.99	11	11
<i>Partido Auténtico de la Re- volución Mexicana</i> . .	251,627	1.92	—	305,704	2.36	12	12
<i>Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores</i> . . . . .	294,732	2.25	—	310,990	2.40	10	10
<i>Partido Demócrata Mexi- cano</i> . . . . .	284,104	2.17	—	293,117	2.27	10	10
Others . . . . .	9,500	0.07	—	—	—	—	—
			300				400





## NIGERIA

**Dates of Elections:** 7 July 1979 (Senate)  
14 July 1979 (House of Representatives)

### Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of the Parliament established by the 1979 Constitution\*.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Nigeria, the National Assembly, consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Senate comprises 95 members, 5 from each of the country's 19 States.

The House of Representatives has 449 members; a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 46 represent each State.

All parliamentarians have 4-year terms of office.

### Electoral System

Every citizen of Nigeria who has attained the age of 18 years and resides in the country at the time of registration of voters for an election may be so registered.

All Nigerian citizens who are at least 21 years of age are eligible for election as members of the House of Representatives; the qualifying age for the Senate is 30 years. Persons owing allegiance to a foreign State, the insane, undischarged bankrupts, those under sentence of death or imprisonment for an offence involving dishonesty exceeding six months, and persons who—within the previous 10 years—have been convicted and sentenced for an offence involving dishonesty or found guilty of a contravention of the Code of Conduct are disqualified for election to the National Assembly. The office of parliamentarian is incompatible with employment in the public service of the Nigerian Federation or of any of its States, membership of another legislature, and membership of certain commissions or other bodies established by the Constitution or other law.

For election purposes, Nigeria is divided into single-member districts (Senate) and constituencies (House of Representatives). Parliamentarians are elected according to simple majority vote.

By-elections are held to fill National Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 22.

## General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

In 1975, the military régime—which had governed Nigeria since 1966—announced a programme to restore democracy and civilian rule by October 1979. Starting in 1976, this was marked by a revision of the State structure, the election of local government councils, the formation of a Constituent Assembly to debate a new Constitution, the lifting of the ban on political activity and the promulgation of a new Constitution in November 1978.

In July and August 1979, elections were held for the National Assembly as well as for the State Assemblies, the State Governorships and the Federal Presidency. Of the five political parties which qualified for registration with the Federal Electoral Commission, two of them—the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) and the United Party of Nigeria—fielded parliamentary candidates in all constituencies. NPN proved to be the most successful, capturing the greatest number of seats in both Houses, and its leader, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, was elected President. The NPN ultimately gained a working majority in the House of Representatives by forming a parliamentary alliance with the Nigerian People's Party (NPP).

Mr. Shagari's Cabinet—which, under the Constitution, must be approved by the Senate—was sworn in by 14 December; it had both NPN and NPP members. On 1 October, the military Government handed over power as scheduled, and the new Constitution came into effect.

## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . . 48,000,000 (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats in the Senate	Number of Seats in the House of Representatives
National Party of Nigeria . . . . .	36	168
United Party of Nigeria . . . . .	28	111
Nigerian People's Party . . . . .	16	78
Greater Nigeria People's Party . . . . .	8	43
People's Redemption Party . . . . .	7	49
	95	449

## PERU

**Date of Elections:** 18 May 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the Parliament established by the 1979 Constitution\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Peru, the Congress, consists of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

The Senate is composed of 60 elected members. In addition, former constitutional Presidents of the Republic are Senators for life.

The Chamber of Deputies comprises 180 elected members.

All members of Congress have a term of office of 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Peruvian citizens at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote. Disqualified are persons under judicial interdiction, those under sentence which deprives them of their freedom, and members of the armed forces and police on active duty. Voting is compulsory until the age of 70.

Qualified electors who are at least 25 years of age may be candidates for the Chamber of Deputies, while 35 is the age requirement for the Senate. The office of parliamentarian is incompatible with a number of public positions (except Minister of State and participation in certain special committees of an international character), active membership of the armed and police forces, and certain posts in State-connected enterprises.

Candidates for Congress are nominated by political parties or alliances of parties.

Members of Congress are elected according to a party-list system of proportional representation, Senators being elected on a regional basis and Deputies on the district level, the constituency of Lima having the most Deputies (40).

Congress seats which become vacant between general elections are filled by alternate candidates in the order in which they appear on the respective party lists.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The legislative elections were held simultaneously with those for President of the Republic. The polling date had been set on 28 July 1979.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 24-25.



The Constitution of July 1979 had provided for restoration of civilian rule to replace the military régime which had governed the country since 1968.

Primary contenders for the presidency were Mr. Fernando Belaunde Terry (who was overthrown in the 1968 military coup) of the centrist Popular Action Party (*Acción Popular*, or AP), Mr. Armando Villanueva del Campo of the centre-left American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) and Mr. Luis Bedoya Reyes of the conservative Popular Christian Party. During the campaign, Mr. Belaunde's slogan was "Peru for the Peruvians"; he pledged to create new jobs through a variety of agricultural projects, to combat malnutrition and poverty, to respect human rights and freedom of the press, and to seek large foreign capital investments to step up production of various Peruvian industries. For the congressional seats, 18 political parties had registered lists which totalled 3,284 candidates.

On polling day, Mr. Belaunde's strong showing in the presidential race was matched by the AP in the vote for Congress.

As planned, the return to civilian rule occurred on 28 July 1980. Dr. Manuel Ulloa Elias (AP) became the Prime Minister.

## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distributions of Seats in the Congress*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	6,500,000 (approx.)
Voters . . . . .	62% (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats in	
	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
Popular Action Party (AP) . . . . .	98	26
American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) . . . . .	58	18
Popular Christian Party (PPC) . . . . .	10	6
Others . . . . .	14	10
	180	60

## POLAND

**Date of Elections:** 23 March 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Polish Parliament is unicameral. The Diet (*Sejm*) is composed of 460 Deputies elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Polish citizens are entitled to vote provided they are at least 18 years of age; also qualified are persons who have resided in the country for five years and are stateless, even if their Polish citizenship is not yet established. Disqualified from voting are persons under court-imposed guardianship due to mental deficiency and those deprived of their civil rights by court decision.

Prior to each election, electoral registers are compiled at the constituency level by the local organs of State administration and scrutinized by the electors. Voting is not compulsory.

Any qualified elector who is at least 21 years of age may stand for election to the Diet. The office of Deputy is not incompatible with any other public or private function. Lists of candidates are drawn up after consultation of the electorate. Nominations are made by the National Unity Front, which embraces the political parties and social organizations which originally proposed the candidates.

For Diet elections, Poland is divided into 72 constituencies, each of which returns from three to 10 Deputies, depending on population. Election is on the basis of absolute majority. Each elector votes for the candidates who appear on the ballot paper and for as many names as there are seats allotted to the constituency. Since the number of candidates may exceed the number of allotted seats, voters can cast preferential votes or cross out certain names.

If not enough candidates to fill the available seats in the constituency obtain the absolute majority of votes in the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of registered electors have voted, a second ballot is held. On this second ballot—for the remaining seats—a simple majority of votes is sufficient for election.

In the event of a *Sejm* vacancy between general elections, the Diet may decide that the seats should be filled by the “next-in-line” candidate on the list of the party which formerly held the seat in question.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The polling date was announced on 23 January 1980. The names of the 646 candidates contesting the 460 Diet seats were published on 3 March. The lists of candidates had been drawn up by the National Unity Front, the organization which embraces all the political parties and social organizations of Poland, especially the Polish United Workers' Party (led by Mr. Edward Gierek), the United Peasants' Party and the Democratic Party. The country's economic situation was one of the main issues during the period immediately preceding the elections; Mr. Gierek made a statement on this question at the opening of the United Workers' Party Congress on 11 February 1980.

On polling day, approximately half of the successful candidates were elected for the first time. The distribution of seats among the political parties and non-party Deputies remained unchanged; as before, the United Workers' Party obtained the absolute majority of Diet seats, winning 57%.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Diet*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	25,098,816
Voters . . . . .	24,816,304 (98.87%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	13,692
Valid votes . . . . .	24,802,612
<i>Votes in favour of the National Unity Front</i> . .	24,683,056

Political Group	Number of Seats
National Unity Front	
Polish United Workers' Party . . . . .	261
United Peasants' Party . . . . .	113
Democratic Party . . . . .	37
Non-party, including three circles of Catholic Deputies . . . . .	49
	<u>460</u>

2. *Distribution of Members of the Diet  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	354
Women . . . . .	106
	<u>460</u>

3. *Distribution of Members of the Diet  
according to Age Group*

Under 25 years . . . . .	2
25-29 . . . . .	10
30-39 . . . . .	65
40-49 . . . . .	148
50-59 . . . . .	180
60-69 . . . . .	43
70 and over . . . . .	12
	<u>460</u>





## PORTUGAL

**Date of Elections:** 2 December 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all members of Parliament following the dissolution of this body by the President of the Republic on 11 September 1979 on the advice of the Council of the Revolution.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Portugal, the Assembly of the Republic, consists of 246 Deputies\* elected to represent metropolitan Portugal and other Deputies chosen by electors residing abroad. The latter comprise two electoral constituencies, one for European territories and the second for other territories and Macao; the constituencies each return one Deputy when there are less than 55,000 electors and 2 Deputies when there are more than this number. The normal term of the legislature is 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Portuguese citizens, even if residing abroad, are entitled to vote if at least 18 years old and registered as electors. Disqualified are the insane and mentally infirm, persons incompetent to manage their own affairs, persons serving their sentences following conviction for crime, those deprived of their political rights and certain categories of persons who held important public positions prior to 25 April 1974 and did not clearly repudiate before this date the political régime then in power.

Electoral registers are permanent and revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors are eligible for membership of Parliament. The office of Deputy is incompatible with membership of the Government and active service in the military and police forces, as well as with the post of magistrate, diplomat, and certain public and ecclesiastical offices. Portuguese citizens who have a second nationality may not stand as candidates in the constituency which is adjacent to the territory of this nationality. Deputies who are civil servants or members of public corporations may not exercise the latter functions during the term of the legislature.

Candidates are nominated by political parties. The lists may bear names of persons who are not party members.

Deputies are elected in 22 constituencies by party-list system, with proportional representation based on the d'Hondt method. The lists must bear as many names as there are seats to be filled in the constituency. Electors may only vote for one list.

Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections are filled by the first of the "next-in-line" candidates appearing on the same party list.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-79), p. 24.

## General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The Parliament elected in 1976 would normally have reached the end of its term in 1980. On 13 July 1979, the President of the Republic, General Antonio Ramalho Eanes, announced that he intended to dissolve the Assembly and call new elections. This dissolution was officially carried out on 11 September, the President justifying it in a public speech on the ground that it was urgently necessary to find stable political solutions in view of the manifest impossibility, within the existing parliamentary framework, of achieving a minimum of governmental stability with minority Governments.

This instability was particularly demonstrated by failure of the non-partisan Government of Mr. Alfredo Nobre da Costa that fell on 14 September 1978, three weeks after it came into power, and that of Dr. Carlos Mota Pinto, also non-partisan, which assumed power on 22 November 1978 and fell on 7 June 1979 following motions of censure tabled by the Socialist Party and the Communist Party. These difficulties also reflected the country's economic and financial crises, marked by high unemployment and inflation rates. On 30 July, a non-partisan interim Government entrusted with preparing the elections was named, with Dr. Maria de Lurdes Pintassilgo as Prime Minister.

On polling day, voter turnout was high, reaching 82.87%. The electoral coalition of the Democratic Alliance (AD) comprising the Social Democratic Party (PSD) headed by Dr. Francisco Sa Carneiro, the Centre Democratic Party (CDS), the People's Monarchic Party (PPM) and the Reformists obtained an absolute Assembly majority with 128 seats of the 250; at the preceding elections, the Alliance parties had won 115 of 263 seats. The United People's Alliance (APU) electoral coalition comprising the Portuguese Communist Party led by Mr. Alvaro Cunhal and the People's Democratic Movement also made progress; it won 47 seats as opposed to the 40 for the parties which comprised it at the previous elections. On the other hand, the Socialist Party of Mr. Mario Soares lost 33 seats. Overall, the results marked the first time since 25 April 1974 that one political group had gained an absolute Assembly majority. It was also the first time that centre-right parties had defeated all left-wing parties together.

In late 1979, the Prime Minister of the interim Government resigned. Dr. Sa Carneiro was designated Prime Minister and formed a 14-member AD Cabinet made up wholly of civilians; this composition was approved by the President of the Republic on 31 December 1979.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Assembly of the Republic

Number of registered electors . . . . .	7,249,346
Voters . . . . .	6,007,453 (82.87%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	163,714
Valid votes . . . . .	5,843,739

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
Democratic Alliance (AD)*	2,554,458	45.52	121	—	—
Social Democratic Party (PSD)** . . . . .	141,227***	2.35***	7***	38	73
Centre Democratic Party (CDS)** . . . . .	23,523***	0.39***	—	41	42
Socialist Party (PS) . . . . .	1,642,136	27.33	74	101	107
United People's Alliance (APU)**** . . . . .	1,129,322	18.8	47	40	40
Portuguese Commu- nist Party (PCP) . . . . .					
People's Democratic Movement (MDP) . . . . .					
People's Democratic Union	130,842	2.18	1	1	1
Independents . . . . .					42*****
			250	263	263

\* 1979 electoral coalition comprising the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the Centre Democratic Party (CDS), the People's Monarchic Party (PPM) and the Reformists.  
\*\* The PSD and CDS fielded separate candidates in the Madeira and the Azores.  
\*\*\* In Madeira and the Azores only.  
\*\*\*\* 1979 electoral coalition comprising the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) and the People's Democratic Movement (MDP).  
\*\*\*\*\* Deputies who had left the PSD, PS and CDS.



*2. Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Professional Category*

Members of the legal profession . . . . .	59
Civil servants . . . . .	47
Teachers . . . . .	34
Engineers . . . . .	24
Workers . . . . .	19
Company directors . . . . .	16
Doctors . . . . .	14
Economists . . . . .	11
Journalists . . . . .	8
Students . . . . .	6
Others . . . . .	12
	250

*3. Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	227
Women . . . . .	23
	250

*4. Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Age Group*

20-30 years . . . . .	12
31-40 . . . . .	89
41-50 . . . . .	70
51-60 . . . . .	56
Over 60 . . . . .	23
	250

## ROMANIA

**Date of Elections:** 9 March 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Romania, the Grand National Assembly, comprises 369 members elected for 5 years\*.

### **Electoral System**

All Romanian citizens who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote unless they are insane, mentally infirm or deprived of the right to vote for a fixed period pursuant to a court conviction.

Electoral registers are compiled by the executive committees of the people's councils\*\* of municipalities and municipal wards of Bucharest, as well as by the executive offices of people's councils of towns and communities. Drawing up of lists is completed at the latest 30 days prior to the polling date. Special provision is made to allow persons absent from their constituency on polling day to cast ballots. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors at least 23 years of age are eligible for election to Parliament. Candidates are nominated by the Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity, the political organization founded in 1968 which, under the direction of the Romanian Communist Party, unifies the country's political and social forces and its various mass organizations. Within each electoral constituency, nominations are made within the framework of voters' meeting by the above-mentioned Front. The approval or rejection of a candidature may be contested by any workers' organization and any citizen, who address themselves to the constituency's electoral commission and, if need be, the Central Electoral Commission. Several candidates may be nominated for the same seat.

Deputies are elected in 369 single-member constituencies. If, within a constituency, no candidate obtains an absolute majority of the votes in the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second or subsequent ballots are held until these requirements are met.

By-elections are held within three months to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 25.

\*\* The people's councils are local organs of State power.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The Assembly elections were held simultaneously with those for 61,772 members of the country's people's councils.

In 1980, the tendency towards more than one nomination per seat which had marked the 1975 poll was once again evident. In 41% of the constituencies, two candidates were put forward; three were proposed in 10.6%. For the first time, male and female candidates were fielded in 14 constituencies.

The issues of the electoral campaign of the Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity—which nominated all candidates—had been defined at the 12th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, held in Bucharest from 19 to 23 November 1979. The turnout on polling day was high. The Front obtained 98.52% of the votes cast; there were 1.48% votes “against”.

The newly-elected Assembly met on 28 and 29 March. It unanimously re-elected Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu as President of the Republic. It thereafter unanimously re-elected Mr. Ilie Verdet as Prime Minister and approved the composition of the Council of Ministers.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Grand National Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	15,631,351	
Voters . . . . .	15,629,098	(99.9%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	44	
Valid votes . . . . .	15,629,054	
<i>Votes obtained by candidates of the Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity . . . . .</i>	<i>15,398,443</i>	

Political Group	Number of Seats
Front of Democracy and Socialist Unity . . .	369

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Professional Category*

Industry, construction and transport . . . . .	154
State agricultural enterprises . . . . .	95
Research officers, engineers, teachers, science .	54
Officers, lawyers, economists, doctors, clergy .	35
Party and State officials, including mass and social organizations . . . . .	31
	<hr/> 369

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	247
Women . . . . .	122
	<hr/> 369

4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Age Group*

23-35 years . . . . .	44
36-45 . . . . .	81
46-55 . . . . .	179
56-65 . . . . .	48
Over 65 . . . . .	17
	<hr/> 369





## SAINT LUCIA

**Date of Elections:** 2 July 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the House of Assembly in the first such poll since attainment of independence in February 1979\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Saint Lucia consists of a Senate and a House of Assembly.

The Senate is composed of 11 members appointed by the Governor-General: 6 on the advice of the Prime Minister, 3 on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, and 2 on the basis of the Governor-General's "own deliberate judgement" after undertaking various consultations.

The House of Assembly comprises 17 elected members. All parliamentarians have 5-year terms of office.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen of the Commonwealth who is at least 21 years old and possesses the required qualifications relating to residence or domicile in Saint Lucia is, unless otherwise disqualified, entitled to vote.

All citizens of at least 21 years of age who were born in Saint Lucia and are domiciled and resident there at the date of their nomination (or having been born elsewhere, have resided there for a period of 12 months immediately before that date), as well as able to speak and—unless incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause—to read the English language with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable them to take an active part in the proceedings of the House are qualified to be elected as members of the House of Assembly; the age and residence requirements for Senate candidates are 30 and five years, respectively.

No person may be a member of Parliament if he is under allegiance to a foreign State, a minister of religion, an undischarged bankrupt, a person certified to be insane, or one under sentence of death or serving a term of imprisonment exceeding 12 months.

For House of Assembly elections, each constituency returns one member.

Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections are filled through by-elections, whereas Senate vacancies are filled by appointment. Both are effected within three months of the occurrence of the vacancy.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 25.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

In Saint Lucia’s first elections as an independent nation, the opposition left-wing Labour Party (SLP) won a decisive victory, capturing 12 of the 17 seats in the House of Assembly. The United Workers’ Party, headed by Prime Minister John Compton and in power since 1964, was restricted to five Assembly seats.

The election campaign, which came shortly after an eight-week strike by teachers and civil servants, was held in a tense atmosphere. Economic questions were in the forefront of the SLP’s election manifesto.

SLP leader Allan Louisy became the new Prime Minister.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the House of Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	69,966
Voters . . . . .	61%

Political Group	Number of Seats
Saint Lucia Labour Party. . . . .	12 (+ 5)
United Workers’ Party . . . . .	5 (– 5)
	<hr/> 17

## SAINT VINCENT

**Date of Elections:** 5 December 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the Representatives elected to the House of Assembly in the first general elections since Saint Vincent became fully independent on 27 October 1979\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Saint Vincent, the House of Assembly, comprises 13 elected Representatives and 6 Senators appointed by the Governor-General—4 on the advice of the Prime Minister and 2 on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition. The normal duration of the legislature is 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Commonwealth citizens of the age of 18 and upwards who have been ordinarily domiciled or resident in Saint Vincent during the preceding 12 months are entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane, persons under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months and those under allegiance to a foreign State.

Electoral registers are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors of at least 21 years of age who are able to speak and read the English language are eligible to become members of the House of Assembly. Judges of the Supreme Court, public servants, persons having an interest in a Government contract, members of the armed or police forces and undischarged bankrupts may not simultaneously be members of the House of Assembly; ministers of religion may at the same time be Senators but not Representatives.

Each candidate must be supported by six electors of his constituency and deposit a sum of US\$ 45, which is reimbursed if he obtains at least one-eighth of the votes cast. Political party backing is not necessarily required.

For election purposes, Saint Vincent is divided into 13 constituencies which each returns one Representative by simple majority. Vacancies are filled through by-election or appointment within 90 days.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Saint Vincent became independent on 27 October 1979. The House of Assembly was dissolved on 7 November and the electorate was called upon to vote on 5 December. A total of 50 candidates vied for the 13 seats. There were four contending parties: the

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 25-26.



Saint Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) led by Mr. R. Milton Cato, Prime Minister since 1974; the People's Political Party, the SVLP's traditional rival, headed by Mr. E. T. Joshua; the New Democratic Party, led by Mr. J. F. Mitchell; and the United People's Movement of Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, which contested elections for the first time. All four groups presented a similar manifesto but ideologically the United People's Movement was oriented to the left much as the political groups which had recently come to power in Grenada and Saint Lucia. The SVLP (considered a moderate socialist party), the centrist New Democratic Party and the People's Political Party were oriented to the right.

On polling day, the SVLP obtained a clear victory as it captured 11 of the 13 seats. Mr. Cato became Prime Minister; his new Cabinet begun its work on 7 December and was formally confirmed in office on 24 January 1980.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Representatives' Seats in the House of Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	52,073
Voters . . . . .	33,275 (63.9%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	321
Valid votes . . . . .	32,955

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections*
Saint Vincent Labour Party . . . . .	13	17,876	54.2	11	10	10
New Democratic Party . . . . .	13	9,022	27.3	2	1	1
United People's Movement . . . . .	12	4,467	13.5	—	—	—
People's Political Party . . . . .	11	1,492	4.5	—	2	2
				13	13	13

\* Held prior to independence.

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Professional Category*

Lawyers . . . . .	6
Businessmen and women . . . . .	5
Ex-civil servants . . . . .	3
Civil engineer . . . . .	1
Craftsman . . . . .	1
Electrician . . . . .	1
Social worker . . . . .	1
Ex-teacher . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
	19

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	17
Women . . . . .	2
	<hr/>
	19

4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Age Group*

26-40 years . . . . .	13
41-49 . . . . .	—
50-60 . . . . .	5
61-65 . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
	19



## SOMALIA

**Date of Elections:** 30 December 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the Parliament established by the 1979 Constitution\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Somalia, the People's Assembly, comprises 171 members elected for 5 years. Furthermore, according to the Constitution, the President of the Republic may appoint to the Assembly up to 6 persons from among people dedicated to science, culture and art, or highly esteemed patriots.

### **Electoral System**

All Somali citizens who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote. Every citizen who has attained the age of 21 years is eligible for election as Deputy.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Following the 1969 general elections, Parliament was dissolved later in the year and the military took command of the country. President Siad Barre declared Somalia a socialist State and introduced a revolutionary programme of national unification and social and economic reform. In 1976, the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP), the country's sole legal political party, was formed.

In August 1979, a new Constitution was approved by popular referendum. The election date was announced on 11 December. All candidates belonged to the SRSP; electors could vote for or against each, the SRSP nominating an alternate candidate in the latter case. Among those elected were 20 members of the armed forces and six women.

On 26 January 1980, the new Assembly unanimously elected incumbent President Siad Barre for a six-year term. On 7 February, the President announced the formation of his new Government.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 27-28.



## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly*

Voters . . . . .	3,985,838
<i>Votes in favour of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party . . . . .</i>	<i>99.91%</i>

Political Group	Number of Seats
Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party . . . . .	171*

\* Six additional members are appointed by the President of the Republic.

## SUDAN

**Dates of Elections:** 28 April to 10 May 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following premature dissolution of this body on 4 February 1980, in accordance with Article 108 of the Constitution. General elections had previously been held in February 1978.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Sudan, the People's Assembly, consists of 368 members—332 elected and 36 appointed by the President of the Republic\*. All members have 4-year terms of office.

In accordance with the Constitution, the elected members represent geographical areas (136), administrative units (36) and the alliance of the working forces of the people (160). The appointed members—who may not be Ministers—are meant to represent different talents.

### **Electoral System**

Under the terms of the People's Assembly Election Rules 1980, any person is qualified to register in the electoral roll of a geographic constituency, or area, if he is a Sudanese at least 18 years of age who has been resident in the constituency concerned for a minimum of three months (nomads and semi-nomads are exempted from this last condition). Disqualified are the insane and persons not in full possession of their political rights.

Electoral rolls for constituencies of the units of the alliance of the working forces of the people include rolls of popular organizations at the provincial level (18 provinces) and rolls of sectoral (national) organizations at the national level. The electoral rolls for constituencies of the administrative units, or 18 provinces, consist of the members of the people's executive council of the province and members of districts, towns and rural councils in the province.

Qualified electors who are at least 21 years of age, literate and who have not previously been convicted of an offence connected with honour, morals or the security of the State may be candidates for the People's Assembly. Further requirements are not being a member of the people's regional council and the producing of a certificate from the Sudanese Socialist Union (the country's only recognized political organization) to the effect that there is no objection to the nomination concerned. The nominations of officials and workers in the Government or public sector must be accompanied by a certificate from the unit to which the official or worker belongs showing that he has ceased to perform his duties.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 30-31.

Nominations must be seconded by two qualified electors of the constituency in question and be accompanied by the payment of 100 non-refundable Sudanese pounds.

Assembly members are elected by simple majority. There are 136 single-member constituencies for the geographical or territorial seats; 18 constituencies for the 54 seats allotted to the popular organizations within the framework of the alliance of the working forces of the people; 25 constituencies for the 106 seats allotted to the sectoral (national) organizations within this same framework; and 18 constituencies for the 36 seats allotted to administrative units. Voting may be effected either by ballot paper or token.

Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections are filled through by-elections, held within 60 days of the vacancy. Seats of appointed members are filled by presidential appointment.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The reason given for premature dissolution of the People's Assembly was to widen the base of political participation in the country and, hence, increase the Assembly's overall membership (from 304 to 368). This was designed to pave the way towards establishment of a regional government system.

Within the framework of Sudan's unique system of elective seats, candidates in the 1980 elections numbered 663 for the 136 geographical constituencies; 180 for the 36 seats reserved for administrative units; 254 for the 54 seats set aside for the popular organizations of the alliance of working forces of the people; and 350 for the 106 seats earmarked for the sectoral (national) organizations of this same alliance.

The country's sole legal political organization is the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU), founded in 1972. All parliamentary candidates must be approved on the basis of a "certificate of non-objection" issued by the SSU. The President of the Republic—and at the same time the Prime Minister—is General Gaafar Mohammed Nimeri.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the People's Assembly*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Sudanese Socialist Union . . . . .	368

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Professional Category*

Government officials . . . . .	96
Teachers and University lecturers . . . . .	59
Businessmen . . . . .	58
Farmers . . . . .	46
Workers . . . . .	37
Organized Forces . . . . .	22
Members of the legal profession . . . . .	20
Administrative officers of local government .	11
Economists . . . . .	6
Engineers . . . . .	4
Agriculturists . . . . .	3
Journalists . . . . .	3
Doctors . . . . .	2
Veterinarians . . . . .	1
	<hr/> 368

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	344
Women . . . . .	24
	<hr/> 368



4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Age Group*

21-30 years . . . . .	32
31-40 . . . . .	168
41-50 . . . . .	106
51-60 . . . . .	48
61-70 . . . . .	10
71-80 . . . . .	4
	<hr/>
	368

## SWEDEN

**Date of Elections:** 16 September 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the *Riksdag* on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Swedish Parliament, the *Riksdag*, comprises 349 members elected for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Swedish citizens who have reached the age of 18 and are not under tutelage are entitled to vote. This applies also to citizens living abroad provided that they have been residents of Sweden at one time and apply for entry in a special electoral register.

Electoral registers are drawn up for each election district and are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory. Postal voting is permitted.

Anyone who is entitled to vote may be elected as a member of the *Riksdag*. The parliamentary mandate is generally not incompatible with other public or private offices. Although Ministers (as well as the Speaker) may not serve as members of Parliament while in office, they may retain their seats which, in the meantime, are held by substitute members, and may take up their parliamentary duties if and when they leave the Government. Substitute members also serve for ordinary members who have obtained a leave of absence for at least one month.

Of the 349 members of the *Riksdag*, 310 are elected in 28 constituencies, under the party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the St. Laguë method (divisors: 1, 4, 3, 5, 7, etc.). To obtain a seat, a party must either obtain at least 4% of the votes cast throughout the country or 12% of the votes cast in a constituency.

The 39 remaining (or "compensatory") seats are allotted on the basis of total votes throughout the country, though distributed by constituencies; for this process, parties which have obtained seats only by means of the 12% rule are excluded.

If a seat in the *Riksdag* should become vacant between general elections, it is filled by a substitute member chosen at the same time as the elected member.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

As at the 1973 and 1976 elections, the socialist bloc (Social Democrats and Communists) was once again opposed by the centre-right bloc (Centre, Moderate and Liberal

parties). Principal campaign issues concerned the results of governmental activity in the economic field and reform of fiscal policy. The Social Democrats, awaiting the decisions of a 1981 party congress, did not emphasize their programme of socialist development in Sweden. With regard to the role of nuclear reactors as future energy sources, the main parties had previously agreed that the question should be the subject of a referendum scheduled to take place in March 1980.

On polling day, the centre-right bloc retained its majority of seats with the narrowest possible margin—175 as against 174 for the socialist bloc. Among the non-socialists there was a significant shift to the right large gains for the Moderate Party and even larger losses for the Centre Party. After the election the Liberal minority Government resigned and a coalition Government was formed; Mr. T. Fälldin, the leader of the Centre Party, returned as Prime Minister after resigning from this same post the previous year. The new Cabinet consists of eight Moderates, seven Centre representatives and five Liberals, the figures for the coalition Government of 1976-1978 having been six, eight and five, respectively.

## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Riksdag*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	6,040,461
Voters . . . . .	5,480,126 (90.72%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	31,488
Valid votes . . . . .	5,448,638

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Social Democratic Party . . . . .	2,356,234	43.2	154 (+ 2)
Moderate Party (Conservatives) . . . . .	1,108,406	20.3	73 (+ 18)
Centre Party . . . . .	984,589	18.1	64 (– 22)
Liberal Party . . . . .	577,063	10.6	38 (– 1)
Communist Party . . . . .	305,420	5.6	20 (+ 3)
Christian Democratic Union . . . . .	75,993	1.4	–
Others . . . . .	40,933	0.8	–
			349

## 2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

Civil servants		
Executives of public services . . . . .	47	111
Employees . . . . .	36	
Teachers . . . . .	28	
Representatives of associations in the public interest		
Political organizations . . . . .	49	86
Trade union organizations . . . . .	17	
Interest groups . . . . .	17	
Representatives of the Free Church . . . . .	3	
Employers and directors of companies		
Agriculture and fishing . . . . .	40	58
Industry . . . . .	11	
Commerce and transportation . . . . .	6	
Others . . . . .	1	
Administrative staff		
Industry . . . . .	16	47
Commerce and transportation . . . . .	11	
Journalism . . . . .	20	
Workers . . . . .		30
Others . . . . .		17
		<hr/> 349

## 3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men . . . . .	257
Women . . . . .	92
	<hr/> 349

## 4. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group

Under 30 years . . . . .	4
30-39 . . . . .	39
40-49 . . . . .	109
50-59 . . . . .	134
60-69 . . . . .	62
70 and over . . . . .	1
	<hr/> 349

*Average Age of Deputies: 51 years*





## SWITZERLAND

**Date of Elections:** 21 October 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the National Council and for 37 of the 46 members of the Council of States on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Swiss Federal Assembly is bicameral, consisting of the National Council (*Nationalrat*) and Council of States (*Ständerat*).

The National Council is composed of 200 members elected for 4 years. The Council of States comprises 46 members, two from each of the Confederation's 20 cantons and one from each of the 6 half-cantons. All *Ständerat* members are elected for 4 years except for those from the canton of Glarus, whose term of office is 3 years. *Ständerat* elections generally coincide with those for the *Nationalrat*.

### **Electoral System**

While the electoral laws for the National Council are drawn up on the federal level, those for the Council of States are done so by the cantons.

In elections to the National Council, citizens at least 20 years of age and residing in Switzerland are entitled to vote unless they are insane, have been deprived of their civil rights or (in most cantons) are under guardianship.

Electoral registers are compiled on the constituency level and revised continuously. Voting is compulsory only in a small number of cantons, where those abstaining without a justifiable reason are subject to a small fine.

All qualified electors aged 20 years or more who are laymen may be candidates for the National Council. Membership thereof is incompatible with membership of the Federal Council (Cabinet) or the post of federal judge or official appointed by the Federal Council. Membership of the Council of States is incompatible with that of the Federal Council and the Federal Tribunal. Lists of candidates for the National Council must be supported by 15 electors; candidates are, in practice, nominated by political parties.

For purposes of elections, Switzerland is divided into 26 constituencies—one for each canton and half-canton. The number of seats allotted to each is based on the constituency's population. Candidates in multi-member constituencies appear on party lists and are elected so as to arrive at proportional representation calculated according to the Hagenbach-Bischoff method, the electoral quota within each constituency being established by dividing the number of seats to be filled, plus one, into the total number of

valid votes; every party is given one seat for every completed number of times which this quota is contained in the number of votes cast for it. Each elector can vote for a list as is or modify it by crossing out or repeating names appearing on it; he can moreover split his vote between different party lists (*panachage*) or select names from different lists in forming his own list on a blank ballot paper.

In the five single-member constituencies (two cantons, three half-cantons), National Council members are elected by simple majority vote.

Cantonal law governs election to be Council of States. Members are generally chosen by simple majority vote.

If a seat in the National Council becomes vacant between general elections it is filled by the individual who is "next-in-line" on the list of the party which formerly held the seat or by means of a by-election in constituencies which elect only one member. By-elections are also generally held to fill vacancies in the Council of States.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The 1979 election results once again bore out the stability of Switzerland's electorate, as there were minor changes in party representation and the four partners—Social Democrats (SPS), Radical Democrats (FDP), Christian-Democratic People's Party (CVP) and Swiss People's Party (SVP)—in the ruling coalition which has governed the country since 1959 captured the same number of National Council seats they had won four years earlier—169. The FDP matched the SPS in having the highest total: 51.

A total of 1,843 candidates—including 340 women—were in contention for the 200 National Council seats, which were redistributed following the admission of the new canton of Jura into the Confederation in 1979. Campaign oratory centered largely on local issues. As in the past voter turnout on polling day was low, falling below 50% for the first time in 60 years.

After voting for the 37 Council of States seats at stake the same day, the four coalition partners held 43 of this Chamber's 46 seats. A second round of voting took place on 28 October and 11 November in four of the cantons.

In the seven-man Cabinet, the SPS, FDP and CVP each hold two seats and the SVP has one.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the National Council

Number of registered electors . . . . .	3,863,160
Voters . . . . .	1,856,689 (48.06%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	23,484
Valid votes . . . . .	1,833,205

Political Group	% of Votes obtained	Number of Seats
Social-Democratic Party . . . . .	24.9	51 (−4)
Radical-Democratic Party . . . . .	24.0	51 (+4)
Christian-Democratic People’s Party . . . . .	21.1	44 (−2)
Swiss People’s Party . . . . .	11.5	23 (+2)
Independent Party . . . . .	4.2	8 (−3)
Liberal Party . . . . .	2.8	8 (+2)
Evangelical Party . . . . .	2.3	3 (=)
Labour Party . . . . .	2.1	3 (−1)
National Action . . . . .	1.4	2 (=)
Republican Movement . . . . .	0.6	1 (−3)
Others . . . . .	5.1	6 (+5)
		200



2. *Distribution of Seats in the Council of States*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Christian-Democratic People's Party . . . . .	18 (× 1)
Radical-Democratic Party . . . . .	11 (− 4)
Social-Democratic Party . . . . .	9 (+ 4)
Swiss People's Party . . . . .	5 (=)
Liberal Party . . . . .	3 (+ 2)
Independent Party . . . . .	− (− 1)
	<hr/> 46*

\* Two seats added since previous elections.

3. *Distribution of Members of the Federal Assembly according to Sex*

	National Council	Council of States
Men . . . . .	179	43
Women . . . . .	21	3
	<hr/> 200	<hr/> 46

## TOGO

**Date of Elections:** 30 December 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the National Assembly provided for by the 1979 Constitution\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Togo, the National Assembly, comprises 67 Deputies elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Togolese citizens who are at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote.

All qualified electors who are at least 25 years of age and not under guardianship, who can read and write French or one of Togo's two national languages, and who have resided in the country for at least two years are eligible for election as Deputies. The residence requirement does not apply to certain citizens who have been abroad for study, training, special mission or public employment purposes.

The office of parliamentarian is incompatible with the post of Minister, President of the Supreme Court and certain other public functions.

Candidates for Parliament are all nominated by the *Rassemblement du peuple togolais*, the country's only political organization; the list of candidates must be submitted to the Ministry of the Interior at the latest 15 days prior to the polling date. Deputies are elected by majority vote party-list system.

Substitutes elected at the same time as titular members fill vacancies which arise between general elections.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

In Togo's first elections since 1963, the single list of 67 candidates nominated by the *Rassemblement du peuple togolais* (RPT) was unanimously approved by the electorate. Prior to this poll, the minimum voting age had been lowered from 21 to 18 years.

The RPT was founded in 1969, two years after the National Assembly was dissolved and the 1963 Constitution abolished.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 32-33.

The election campaign lasted 15 days. On the same day as the legislative elections, General Etienne Gnassingbe Eyadéma (proclaimed President of the Republic in 1967) was elected President for a seven-year term, and a new Constitution was approved by a popular referendum. This new Constitution provided for the institutionalization of the RPT as Togo's sole legal political party.

On 3 March 1980, President Eyadéma's Government was reconstituted.

## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	1,303,970
Voters . . . . .	1,294,243 (99.25%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	43,301
Valid votes . . . . .	1,250,942
<i>Votes in favour of the Rassemblement du peuple togolais . . . . .</i>	<i>99.65%</i>

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
<i>Rassemblement du peuple togolais . . . . .</i>	67	67

## TUNISIA

**Date of Elections:** 4 November 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Tunisia, the National Assembly, is composed of 121 members elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens aged 20 years or more who have held Tunisian nationality for at least five years and who are in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote. Disqualified are persons convicted of crime; those convicted of offences which entail either an unsuspended sentence of imprisonment in excess of three months or a suspended sentence of imprisonment in excess of six months; those under guardianship; undischarged bankrupts; the insane; and members of the armed forces and National Guard.

The electoral registers are permanent. They are revised at the commune and sector level on January 1. Citizens living abroad may also be registered. All disputes concerning the lists are resolved by a revision committee. Voting is not compulsory.

Candidates to Parliament must be qualified electors who are at least 28 years of age and born of a Tunisian father. Governors, magistrates, certain local public officials and members of the police force cannot be elected. The exercise of public functions which are non-elective and remunerated out of funds from the State, public establishments or public collectivities are generally incompatible with the office of Deputy; this is also true for the office of president or director of a national enterprise and public establishment, as well as director or administrator of certain public enterprises. Also incompatible are offices which involve working for a foreign State or an international organization when remuneration is provided by these employers.

Candidatures must be submitted during the third or fourth week preceding the elections. Candidates may not run in an individual capacity; they must belong to a party list which is made up of candidates who have agreed to appear on the same list; within each constituency, several lists may not bear the same title nor belong to the same party or organization. Each list enumerates twice as many candidates as there are seats to be filled in the constituency. Candidates need make no monetary deposit.

Tunisia is divided into 22 electoral constituencies. In each, four to seven candidates, who appear on the party lists, are elected by simple majority. The elector casts as many



votes as there are seats to be filled and, in so doing, may split his vote among candidates of different lists. Seats are allocated to the candidates who have obtained the largest number of valid votes.

Should only one list be presented, the candidates on it who have obtained the greatest number of votes are declared elected. In the case of vote splitting, the seats to be filled are allotted to the candidates of the different lists in the order of votes obtained.

An Assembly seat which falls vacant between general elections is filled through a by-election held within three months of the occurrence of the vacancy. No by-elections are however held within the last 12 months of the expiry of the legislature's term.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The November 1979 elections were conducted within the framework of Law 79.40 of 15 August 1979, which made various changes to the Electoral Code\*. The most significant innovation is the widening of the candidates' lists, which now must contain twice as many names as seats to be filled in the constituency. Electors thus have a choice with respect to a particular party list. According to its authors, this provision met the wish for an "opening", dialogue and strengthening of the democratic process of public polls. To the same end, prosecutions against various opposition figures were terminated and pardons were granted, particularly on 3 August 1979, President Habib Bourguiba's birthday.

Despite these developments, opposition groups, after some hesitation, decided not to participate in the elections and only the ruling Destour Socialist Party (*Parti socialiste destourien*-PSD) put forth candidates. On polling day, voter turnout was slightly lower than at the preceding elections, especially in Tunis; the overall figures were 81.4% in 1979 as compared to 96.8% in 1974. The atmosphere on voting day was calm.

On 7 November, President Bourguiba announced that he would once again name Mr. Hedi Nouira as Prime Minister; the latter had held this post since 1970. On 24 April 1980, President Bourguiba reshuffled his Cabinet and Mr. Mohammed Mzali became the new Prime Minister; three Ministers who had resigned at the end of 1977 returned.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 33.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the National Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	1,800,144
Voters . . . . .	1,465,260 (81.4%)
Void or blank ballot papers . . . . .	55,654
Valid votes . . . . .	1,409,606
<i>Votes in favour of the candidates of the Destour Socialist Party . . . . .</i>	<i>1,409,606</i>

Political Group	Number of Seats
Destour Socialist Party (PSD) . . . . .	121*

\* Nine seats added since previous elections.

2. Distribution of Deputies according to  
Professional Category

Teachers . . . . .	46
Civil servants . . . . .	24
Liberal professions . . . . .	20
Farmers . . . . .	15
Businessmen and merchants . . . . .	8
Others . . . . .	8
	<hr/> 121

3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men . . . . .	119
Women . . . . .	2
	<hr/> 121

4. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group

28-40 years . . . . .	22
41-60 . . . . .	93
61 and over . . . . .	6
	<hr/> 121

Average Age: 48.1 years



## ZIMBABWE

**Dates of Elections:** 14 February 1980 } (House of Assembly)  
27-29 February 1980 }  
19 March 1980 (Senate)

### Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for the first Parliament of Zimbabwe, enabling effect to be given to the proposals for a new Constitution, and the proposals for the implementation of that Constitution, which were tabled at the 1979 Constitutional Conference at Lancaster House, London.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The Parliament of Zimbabwe is bicameral, consisting of a 40-member Senate and a 100-member House of Assembly. The maximum term of both Houses is 5 years as from the date on which Parliament first meets after a general election. This period may be extended if Zimbabwe is at war or if a state of public emergency exists.

### Electoral System

The electoral system — such as defined in the Constitution and Electoral Act of 1979 but which was simplified for this first poll (see the transitory provisions below) — is the following:

Any citizen who is at least 18 years of age, resident in an electoral constituency, not disqualified due to absence from that constituency for a period of 12 months and registered on the Common Roll or the White Roll, is entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane and mentally deficient; persons incapable of managing their own affairs; those convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment (or the subject of preventive detention) for at least six months, during the imprisonment and for five years after discharge therefrom; and persons convicted of an electoral offence, for the period during which they are declared to be disqualified.

There are 80 Common Roll constituencies and 20 White Roll constituencies. A Black person may not be registered as a voter on the White Roll. A White person may be registered on the White Roll and the Common Roll.

Persons having good reason to believe that they will not be in their constituency on polling day or that they will be prevented from attending a polling station on account of ill-health, infirmity or duty as a member of a disciplined force, may vote by post.



All qualified electors who have attained the age of 40 and have been ordinarily resident in Zimbabwe for not less than 10 years during the immediately preceding 20 years are eligible for election as Senators if enrolled as voters on the Common Roll (in relation to Black Senators) or on the White Roll (in relation to White Senators). The office of Senator is deemed incompatible with the holding of public office, except in the case of Ministers or Deputy Ministers; members of the Defence Forces or reserve forces of the Police Force whose services are not wholly in the employ of the State; and persons holding any office for which no remuneration is provided other than payment of travelling or subsistence allowances. A Senate candidature must be supported by not less than 30 and not more than 50 persons enrolled, as the case may be, on the Common Roll or White Roll. If the candidate contests a seat of a Senator Chief (see below), he must himself be a Chief and nominated and seconded by Chiefs, both of whom are members of the appropriate electoral college.

All qualified electors who have attained the age of 21 years and have been ordinarily resident in Zimbabwe for not less than five years during the immediately preceding 20 years are eligible for election to the House of Assembly. Black persons enrolled as voters on the Common Roll may be elected as Common Roll constituency members, while White persons enrolled as voters on the White Roll may be elected as White Roll constituency members. Incompatibilities are the same as for Senators. House of Assembly candidates must be supported by not less than 10 and not more than 20 persons registered in the same constituency.

Of the 40 Senators, 14 are elected by an electoral college consisting of the House of Assembly members chosen by the 80 Common Roll constituencies; 10 by an electoral college consisting of the House of Assembly members chosen by the 20 White Roll constituencies; 5 (Chiefs) by an electoral college consisting of those Chiefs in Matabeleland who are members of the Council of Chiefs; 5 (Chiefs) by an electoral college consisting of those Chiefs in Mashonaland who are members of the Council of Chiefs; and 6 are appointed by the President of the Republic on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Election of House of Assembly members is carried out in the course of one ballot. Each Assembly or Senate candidate must make a deposit of Z\$ 100 or Z\$ 200, respectively. This sum is reimbursed if the candidate is elected or obtains at least one-fifth of the number of votes cast for the successful candidate (Assembly) or the candidate elected with the lowest number of votes (Senate). In Common Roll constituencies, Assembly members are elected by simple majority. In White Roll constituencies, electors express their preferences among the candidates on the ballot paper. When there are two candidates, the one obtaining the most first preference votes is elected, provided he thus wins the absolute majority of votes. If this majority is not attained, the least-favoured candidate is eliminated and his votes are allotted to the candidates who received second preferences on the ballots of the eliminated candidate; this process is continued until an absolute majority is reached.

Senate or House of Assembly vacancies are filled through by-elections held 14 to 28 days after the vacancy was officially recorded.

### **Transitory Provisions**

As earlier indicated, the electoral provisions described above were somewhat relaxed and simplified for the first general elections of February 1980. As a result, citizens fulfilling conditions for being registered on the electoral rolls could vote and were eligible for election even if not so registered. Constituencies delimited in a 1978 Act were used for election of White Assembly members. As regards Black members, there were eight electoral districts corresponding to the eight provinces into which the country was previously divided; electors voted exclusively for registered parties; in these constituencies, parties obtaining less than 10% of the vote were eliminated; each remaining party was allocated as many seats as it obtained the quota, arrived at through division of the seats set aside for the district into the total number of votes cast in the district. If there were still one or more seats to be allocated after this process, they were allotted to the parties with the greatest number of left-over votes, in decreasing order. In the event of a vacancy, the party holding the seat which became vacant could, by meeting certain conditions, designate the new member. Postal voting was not allowed. The transitory provisions were due to remain in force until such time as the electoral constituencies provided for in the Constitution had been delimited.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

In late 1979, the leaders of the major political parties met at Lancaster House, London, under the chairmanship of the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington. Their agreements paved the way towards elaboration of arrangements for a "cease-fire" and the preparation of conditions necessary for the holding of legislative elections after a brief transition period. The February 1980 elections enabled effect to be given to the proposals for a new Constitution and its entry into force, which were tabled at the Lancaster House Constitutional Conference; they were the subject of Orders-in-Council (S.I. 1979/1600, 1654) and Act No. 14 of 1979 relating to the qualifications of candidates and the conduct of elections.

The House of Assembly elections were held on 14 February and on 27, 28 and 29 February. On the 14th, 20 House of Assembly members were elected by voters registered on the White Rolls. The Rhodesian Front of Mr. Ian Smith won all these seats, 14 of them without being opposed. From the 27th to the 29th, 80 members were elected by voters registered on the Common Rolls. At this poll, voter turn-out was high, reaching 93.7%. The Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front), led by Mr. Robert Mugabe, won 57 seats — absolute majorities in both the Common Roll constituencies and the House of Assembly as a whole.

Mr. Joshua Nkomo, head of the Patriotic Front which he had previously led with Mr. Mugabe, won 20 seats. The party of Bishop Abel Muzorewa, former Prime

Minister, won only three. The electoral campaign had focused less on the largely similar platforms than on the personalities of the party leaders. Mr. Mugabe's victory was generally attributed to the fact that he appeared to be the most able to bring peace to the country after years of internal warfare.

The polling results were challenged by several parties, which believed they were the outcome of intimidation tactics. This feeling was not shared by the various international observers. In their interim report, the Commonwealth observers stated that the 27-29 February election "can be considered to have been free and fair to the extent that it provided an adequate and acceptable means of determining the wishes of the people in a democratic manner. This view is fortified by the high turn-out and the orderly and manifestly relaxed manner in which such a large percentage of voters went to the polls."

The British-appointed Governor immediately asked Mr. Mugabe to form a Government. It included Mr. Nkomo and several other members of the Patriotic Front and, as a result, assured itself the support, under normal circumstances, of at least 77 Assembly members. Zimbabwe became an independent State on 18 April 1980. The newly-elected Parliament met for the first time on 14 May 1980.

## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Assembly*

#### A. White Roll Election (14 February 1980)

Number of registered electors . . . . .	29,544
Voters . . . . .	16,498 (55.84%)*
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	96
Valid votes . . . . .	16,402

\* Only six seats were contested, the 14 others being filled without opposition.

#### B. Common Roll Election (27-29 February 1980)

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,883,000
Voters . . . . .	2,702,275 (93.73%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	52,746
Valid votes . . . . .	2,649,529



Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
<i>White Election</i>				
Rhodesian Front . . . . .	6	13,621	83.0	20*
Independents . . . . .	8	2,781	17.0	—
<i>Common Roll Election</i>				
Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) . . . . .	80	1,668,992	63.0	57
Patriotic Front . . . . .	80	638,879	24.1	20
United African National Council . . . . .	80	219,307	8.3	3
Zimbabwe African National Union . . . . .	80	53,343	2.0	—
Zimbabwe Democratic Party . . . . .	80	28,181	1.1	—
National Front of Zimbabwe . . . . .	80	18,794	0.7	—
National Democratic Union . . . . .	80	15,056	0.6	—
Others . . . . .	66	6,977	0.3	—
				100

\* Including the 14 unopposed seats.

## 2. Distribution of Seats in the Senate

Political Group	Number of Seats
Zimbabwe African National Union . . . . .	13
Rhodesian Front . . . . .	10
Patriotic Front . . . . .	1
	24**

\*\* In addition, 10 Senators are elected by Chiefs and 6 are appointed.



*3. Distribution of House of Assembly Members  
according to Professional Category*

Teachers . . . . .	22
Political party and trade union officials . . . .	17
Farmers . . . . .	12
Businessmen . . . . .	10
Doctors . . . . .	8
Lawyers . . . . .	3
Journalists . . . . .	2
Others . . . . .	20
No profession . . . . .	6
	<u>100</u>

*4. Distribution of House of Assembly Members  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	91
Women . . . . .	9
	<u>100</u>

*5. Distribution of House of Assembly Members  
according to Age Group*

20-30 years . . . . .	2
31-40 . . . . .	21
41-50 . . . . .	37
51-60 . . . . .	28
Over 60 . . . . .	10
	<u>98*</u>

\* Dates of birth of two members not known.

## PANAMA

## Supplementary information on the general elections of 6 August 1978

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections*

Valid votes . . . . .	594,757
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2. *Distribution of Representatives  
according to Professional Category*

Agriculture . . . . .	229
Education . . . . .	66
Commerce . . . . .	64
Liberal professions and skilled workers . . .	54
Medicine and health . . . . .	16
Industry . . . . .	5
Others . . . . .	71
	<hr/>
	505

3. *Distribution of Representatives according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	478
Women . . . . .	27
	<hr/>
	505

4. *Distribution of Representatives according to Age Group*

18-20 years . . . . .	2
21-30 . . . . .	59
31-40 . . . . .	202
41-50 . . . . .	148
51-60 . . . . .	73
61-70 . . . . .	19
71-80 . . . . .	2
	<hr/>
	505



## WESTERN SAMOA

### Supplementary information on the general elections of 24 February 1979

#### Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

#### Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Western Samoa, the Legislative Assembly, consists of 47 members elected for 3 years. Forty-five of these members are elected from a like number of territorial constituencies on a franchise confined to *matais* (elected family leaders) and two are elected by persons outside the *matai* system and registered on the individual voters' roll.

#### Electoral System

Electors for representatives of *matais* chosen in constituencies must be at least 21 years of age, holders of a *matai* title and registered on the electoral roll of the constituency concerned. Citizens of Western Samoa at least 21 years of age may have their names entered on the individual voters' roll. No person's name can simultaneously appear both on the *matai* and individual voters' roll.

Candidates for the Legislative Assembly must be qualified electors who are not insane, undischarged bankrupts or persons who have been convicted, in Western Samoa or American Samoa, of an offence punishable by death or by imprisonment for a term of two years or more, or convicted, in Western Samoa, of a corrupt practice, unless such offenders have received a free pardon or have undergone their sentence or punishment. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with that of public servant.

Candidates must be nominated by two registered electors and make a monetary deposit of 40 *tala*, which is forfeited if the candidate obtains less than one-fourth of the total number of votes received by the successful candidate.

By-elections are held for Assembly seats which become vacant between general elections.

#### General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As defined in the Constitution of 1960, Western Samoa's political institutions combine the forms of British-style parliamentary democracy with elements of the traditional Samoan social structure. Since there are no formally established political parties,



parliamentary candidates campaign as individuals; 45 of the 47 MPs are elected by approximately 10,000 holders of *matai* titles (a *matai* being the head of an *aiga*, the traditional Samoan extended family unit).

On polling day, more than half of the sitting members lost their seats. The new Assembly subsequently elected Mr. Tupuola Taisi Efi as Prime Minister.

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	46
Women . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
	47

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE CIDP

Unless otherwise indicated, the publications listed below are obtainable from the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Place du Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva (Switzerland).

**PARLIAMENTS OF THE WORLD: A Reference Compendium.** A comparative study of 56 Parliaments in a series of 70 tables preceded by explanatory texts. Pp. 985. (London, The Macmillan Press Ltd., 1976). French edition of 881 pages published by Presses universitaires de France, Paris. On sale in bookshops and, for members of the Union, at the Inter-Parliamentary Secretariat, at the reduced price of Sw. Fr. 105.—. English version out of print.

### SERIES "REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS"

**Nos. 1, 2 and 3 out of print**

#### **No. 4 The Member of Parliament: His Requirements for Information in the Modern World**

Volume I: Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 3rd Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 18 to 20 January 1973. Pp. 329.

Volume II: *Synthesis of the Inquiry on the MP's Means of Information*. Geneva, 1973. Pp. 128\*.

Both volumes . . . . . Sw. Fr. 25.—

#### **No. 5 Who Legislates in the Modern World?**

Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 4th Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 29 to 31 January 1976. Pp. 281. . . . . » 22.—

#### **No. 6 Provisions for the Information of Members of Parliament concerning the Activities of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies**

Findings of an Inquiry. Geneva, 1977. Pp. 45\* . . . . . » 7.—

#### **No. 7 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments**

Bilingual. Geneva, 1978. Pp. 440 . . . . . » 35.—

#### **No. 8 Parliaments and the United Nations**

Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 5th Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 1978. Pp. 252 . . . . . » 23.—

#### **No. 9 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments – Volume II (1977-1979)**

Bilingual. Geneva, 1980. Pp. 290 . . . . . » 27.—

### CHRONICLE OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS\*\*

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| I. 1 July 1966 - 30 June 1967.  |        |
| Bilingual edition (French-English) . . . . .                                    | » 7.—  |
| II. 1 July 1967 - 30 June 1978* . . . . .                                       | » 10.— |
| III. 1 July 1968 - 30 June 1969* . . . . .                                      | » 15.— |
| IV. (1 July 1969 - 30 June 1970) to XIV (1 July 1979 - 30 June 1980)* . . . . . | » 30.— |

\* French edition also available.

\*\* Prior to volume XII (1977-1978), this work was entitled "Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections".



*INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION*

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# CHRONICLE OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

1 July 1980 - 30 June 1981

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International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation (CIDP)

GENEVA, 1981



## INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

### AIMS

The Inter-Parliamentary Union brings together Parliaments on a world-wide level.

The aim of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is to promote personal contacts between members of all Parliaments and to unite them in common action to secure and maintain the full participation of their respective States in the establishment and development of democratic institutions and in the advancement of international peace and co-operation.

In pursuit of this objective, the Union makes known its views on all international problems suitable for settlement by parliamentary action and puts forward suggestions for the development of parliamentary assemblies with a view to improving the working of those institutions and increasing their prestige.

### MEMBERSHIP

National Groups currently exist in the Parliaments of 99 countries.

### STRUCTURE

The organs of the Union are:

1. *The Inter-Parliamentary Conference*, which meets once a year.

2. *The Inter-Parliamentary Council*, composed of two members from each affiliated Group.

President: Mr. Rafael Caldera (Venezuela).

3. *The Executive Committee*, composed of eleven members, ten of whom are elected by the Conference, the Council President acting as *ex-officio* Chairman.

4. *The Secretariat*, with headquarters in Geneva, Place du Petit-Saconnex.

Secretary General: Mr. Pio-Carlo Terenzio (Italy).

### INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY DOCUMENTATION (CIDP)

The essential aim of the International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation (CIDP), created in 1965, is to enable the Inter-Parliamentary Union to carry out one of its statutory missions, to work for "the development of parliamentary institutions, with a view to improving the working of those institutions and increasing their prestige."

It contributes to the accomplishment of these objectives:

- By systematically collecting and distributing information on the structure and working of national legislative assemblies in all independent States, as well as on the status of their members;

— By encouraging the comparative study of representative institutions, with their special characteristics and problems, as well as of possible practical solutions to the latter;

— By attempting to help the assemblies of developing countries to strengthen their infrastructure.

The CIDP is a department of the Secretariat. Its activities and financing are included by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in the Union's Work Programme and Budget, in the light of recommendations made by a Consultative Committee of Experts.

To accomplish its tasks, the CIDP benefits from the collaboration of some 105 national correspondents.

*INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION*

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# CHRONICLE OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION

This issue of the *Chronicle* is the fifteenth in the series published by the International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation (CIDP) of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and covers the period from 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981.

The book consists of two main sections, each divided by country.

The first section outlines the new legal provisions and political events which have affected the organization, power or method of operation of certain Parliaments.

The second section provides detailed analyses of 30 legislative elections which were held in independent countries during the period under review. Information is given therein on the electoral systems, the results of the voting and distribution of seats, as well as on the general background against which each reported election took place. In certain cases, some gaps remain, especially with regard to statistical data which the CIDP was unable to obtain in due time.

The present *Chronicle* also contains, in addendum, information which supplements that given in the preceding volume (XIV).

As in the past the accounts of the elections are printed on easily detachable stiff-paper pages for use as index cards that can be added to those of previous *Chronicles*.

Needless to say, the CIDP could not have compiled all this information without the collaboration of its national correspondents, who replied to questionnaires and sent up-to-date legal texts and other documentation serving to render an accurate account of the special features of the electoral system of their countries. The CIDP wishes to express its gratitude to all of these persons as well as to diplomatic services, academics and other people around the world who have contributed to the preparation of the fifteenth *Chronicle*.

Lastly, the CIDP wishes to thank in advance all persons making use of the contents of the *Chronicle* for their acknowledgement of this publication as a reference source.



# I

## PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD

(1 July 1980 – 30 June 1981)

During the period covered by this volume, the adoption of new constitutional, legislative or statutory provisions by many countries, as well as certain political events, have had an effect on national representative institutions and on the status of their members.

The major changes in the organization, composition, functioning and powers of legislative assemblies in independent countries that have come to the knowledge of the CIDP are briefly set out below. In this connection, it should be noted that the breadth and accuracy of the information given on each country depends not only on the CIDP's own research efforts but, to a great extent, on the data provided by its national correspondents.



## Algeria

*Electoral Law:* A new Electoral Law (*Law No. 80-08*) was promulgated by the President of the Republic on 25 October 1980. It contains provisions regarding the election of the President of the Republic, the People's National Assembly, the communal and *wilaya* assemblies, as well as the holding of referendums.

Under the new Law, all Algerian citizens of either sex who are at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote. Registration on the electoral lists is obligatory. Candidates for election to the People's National Assembly must be at least 30 years of age and Algerian citizens by origin. They must not hold certain public offices in the constituencies in which they present their candidature. They should not be members of the armed forces or the police, nor elected members of another people's assembly. The candidates' names are placed on a single list drawn up by the Party of the National Liberation Front and their number must be at least double the number of seats to be provided for in the constituency.

The new Electoral Law reaffirms the provisions concerning the incompatibility of the parliamentary mandate with the holding of some offices or the exercise of certain professions, as defined by *Law No. 79-01* of January 1979 on the juridical status of Deputies\*.

An amendment to *Law No. 80-08* (*Law No. 81-06*, adopted on 13 June 1981) lowered the required age for eligibility to the People's National Assembly from 30 to 28 years.

## Angola

*Establishment of the People's Assembly:* The revision of the 1978 Constitution, made public on 11 August 1980 by the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers' Party, led to the establishment three months later of the first Parliament\*\* of independent Angola and the abolition of the Revolutionary Council, supreme executive and legislative body since 1975.

Under the new constitutional provisions, the People's Assembly has become the supreme organ of State power. It embodies the sovereign will of the people and carries out the objectives defined by the MPLA-Workers' Party. It has full legislative powers which it may delegate to its Permanent Committee when not in session. The Permanent Committee is composed of the President of the Republic (who is also the President of the People's Assembly), of those members of the Assembly who are members of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers' Party and of 11 other members of the Assembly appointed by the latter upon the proposal of the Party's Central Committee. The Permanent Committee is answerable to the plenary Assembly and must periodically submit reports on its activities.

The 229 Deputies are elected for a period of three years. No Deputy can be arrested without charge or be taken to court without the authorization of the People's Assembly or its Permanent Committee. Members of the Assembly have the right to address questions to the members of the Council of Ministers, described as the highest State organ of administration and execution of laws. They can also request information and co-operation from all State bodies and public undertakings to assist them in carrying out their legislative tasks.

The Assembly meets twice a year and can only deliberate if more than half of the total number of members is present. Decisions are taken by a majority of votes cast, except in the

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 6.

\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 35.

case of amendments to the Constitution, where the vote of two-thirds of the total membership of the Assembly is required.

Initiation of laws lies with the Central Committee of the MPLA Party, the Permanent Committee of the Assembly, the Deputies and parliamentary committees, the Council of Ministers and the Central Council of the National Union of Angolan Workers. The People's Assembly is empowered to monitor the constitutionality of all laws and legal instruments.

*Electoral Law:* With a view to the first general elections for the provincial assemblies and the People's Assembly\*, the Revolutionary Council passed *Law No. 8/80* on electoral procedure on 24 September 1980.

In an amendment to this Law, passed on 3 November 1980 (*Law No. 9/80*), the Revolutionary Council increased the number of members to be elected to the People's Assembly from 216 (as stated in *Law No. 8/80*) to 229.

## Australia

*Increase in membership of the House of Representatives:* As a result of a new delineation of constituency boundaries in Western Australia, the overall number of constituencies on the federal basis was increased from 124 to 125, which resulted in an equal increase in the membership of the House of Representatives.

*Electoral expenses:* With the adoption of the *Commonwealth Electoral Amendment Act 1980* (No. 102 of 1980, assented to on 6 June 1980), the provisions of the principal *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* relating to electoral expenses have been repealed.

The repealed provisions limited the electoral expenses to Aus\$ 1,000 for candidates to the Senate and to \$500 for candidates to the House of Representatives. Expenses were limited to advertising, broadcasting, stationery, telephone and hire of election committees, premises and meeting rooms. No gifts for canvassers were allowed. Candidates were required to lodge a return of their election expenses with the returning officer, political organizations and newspapers within eight weeks of the election.

*Pension benefits for MPs:* A retiring member of Parliament may convert up to 100% of his or her retiring allowance into a lump-sum payment under the new provisions of the *Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Amendment Act 1979* (No. 131 of 1979, assented to on 19 November 1979). The original provision relating to this matter allowed the conversion into a lump-sum payment of only 50% of the total retiring allowance.

*Public Accounts Committee:* An amendment to the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1951* (Act No. 187 of 1979, assented to on 19 November 1979) empowers the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, composed of seven members of the House of Representatives and three Senators, to examine the financial affairs of all statutory and other Government bodies (with the exception of the financial affairs of the Northern Territory and the administration of an external territory) not only on the basis of the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament but also by having access to all the information and reports provided by those bodies for any extensive auditing.

The 1979 Amendment Act enables the Committee to create as many sub-committees as it deems appropriate (which used to be limited to two), lowers the required quorum from six (the majority of members) to four members and enables the Committee to sit at any such place in Australia where it may decide and to meet, even if Parliament is prorogued.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 35.

*Committees:* Parliament confirmed in November 1980 the previous resolutions of a sessional nature to establish, when necessary, special legislative committees empowered to examine bills tabled before the House, and appointed, as usual, a certain number of standing committees with investigatory powers in the following fields: aboriginal affairs, environment and conservation, public expenditure, foreign affairs and defence, development and maintenance of the Capital Territory and road safety. A separate committee has been formed to deal with matters concerning the progress made in building a new Parliament House.

## Austria

*Committee on Incompatibilities:* The Federal Law of 5 November 1980 (No. 545/1980) modifies the Law on Incompatibilities (*Unvereinbarkeitsgesetz*, BGBl. No. 294/1925, i.d.F. des Bundesgesetzes BGBl. No. 100/1931) by providing that the Committee on Incompatibilities of the National Council (popularly-elected House) is empowered to investigate the professional activities of the members of the Federal Government in order to ensure that no Minister holds an office of profit. The committee is given three months to investigate a case of incompatibility and any person found to be in such a position must relinquish his remunerative activity within three months.

*Pension benefits for MPs:* The same Federal Law of 5 November 1980 No. 545/1980) modifies certain provisions of the Law on Parliamentary Remuneration (*Bezügegesetz*, BGBl. No. 273/1972), *inter alia*, the provision concerning monthly contributions by members of Parliament to the pension fund: these have been increased from 5% to 7% of the monthly salary.

## Barbados

*Number of Members of Parliament:* In view of the general elections due to be held in the course of 1981\*, the House of Assembly agreed at the beginning of that year to proceed with a new delimitation of constituencies and to increase its membership from 24 to 27.

## Belgium

*Constitutional reform:* On 17 and 29 July 1980, the two Legislative Chambers adopted several modifications of the Constitution concerning the two linguistic communities of the French-speaking and Flemish-speaking Belgians.

The existing cultural councils\*\* of the French-speaking and Dutch-speaking communities were replaced by the regional councils of the French and Flemish communities, which will be directly elected as from autumn 1982. For the time being, they continue to be composed of members of Parliament divided for this purpose according to the linguistic group to which they belong. The community councils continue to legislate in cultural affairs, education, cultural co-operation and the use of languages. Certain decrees issued by the community councils may have the force of law. The councils have enlarged fiscal powers and may control

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 43.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections V* (1970-1971), pp. 11-12.



p to 10% of the total national Budget (including road construction, urban projects, cultural matters and public health).

## Bolivia

*Constitution and Congress suspended:* Following the general elections of 29 June 1980\*, at which even the most successful presidential candidate, Dr Siles Zuazo, did not obtain the necessary absolute majority of votes cast and therefore had to be confirmed by the newly-elected Congress convened for 4 August, a military junta seized power on 17 July 1980 and announced the cancellation of both presidential and congressional election results, the dissolution of Congress and the imposition of martial law throughout the country. They stated that the 1967 Constitution remained in force in so far as it did not contravene military rule.

In autumn 1980, the Government established a National Consultative and Legislative Commission (*Comisión Nacional de Asesoramiento y Legislación* — CONAL), entrusting it with the task of drawing up a new Constitution.

## Brazil

*Constitutional amendments:* Five constitutional amendments, No. 13 to No. 17, were adopted by the National Congress from October 1979 to December 1980.

Constitutional amendment No. 13 of 11 October 1979 (*Emenda constitucional No. 13*) modified Article 36 of the Constitution by providing that Deputies and Senators do not lose their parliamentary mandate if given leave of absence for a period exceeding 120 days in the case of illness or in order to attend to personal business. During that period, the Deputy or Senator on leave is replaced in his parliamentary activities by his substitute.

Constitutional amendment No. 15 of 19 November 1980 (*Emenda constitucional No. 15*) repealed the provisions introduced in 1977 by Constitutional amendment No. 8\*\*, under which one-third of the Senators had been elected indirectly by electoral colleges established in each State and composed of members of the respective Legislative Assembly and representatives of municipal councils. As from the general elections scheduled for 1982, all Senators will be elected by popular suffrage from among candidates at least 35 years of age and in full possession of their political rights. Each State will elect three Senators for an eight-year term. The elections will take place every four years, alternately for either one or two Senators.

## Canada

*Administration of the House of Commons:* Following the recommendation of the Auditor General of Canada, contained in his 1980 report to the House of Commons, the organization of the management of the House of Commons underwent certain changes in July 1980, when

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-80), pp. 45-47.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections XI* (1976-77), pp. 11-12.



the responsibilities for the procedural and administrative activities of the House, assumed hitherto by the Clerk of the House of Commons, were separated.

The Clerk remains the senior permanent official reporting directly to the Speaker, advising and supporting him on procedural matters. However, a new post of Administrator was created with the same status as that of Clerk and with responsibility for co-ordinating and directing the administrative functions of the House. The Administrator is seconded by a Comptroller in charge of financial administration and a Director General for Human Resources in charge of personnel matters. The Sergeant-at-Arms, who had so far reported mainly to the Clerk of the House, now reports, according to the new system, directly to the Speaker and remains responsible for security and building services as well as Parliament's purchasing, maintenance, accommodation and restaurant facilities.

*Parliamentary task forces:* In an attempt to experiment with a committee system reform, the House of Commons decided to create six special committees, called task forces, to examine six subjects of high topical priority: Government regulations, alternative energy supplies, relationships between developed and developing countries (North-South relations), employment opportunities, disabled and handicapped persons and a national trading corporation.

These task forces, composed of seven members nominated in their personal capacity, were given short-term mandates and allowed to hire professional staff, travel inside and outside Canada, hold extensive public hearings and issue public reports and statements even when the House is not sitting. Their main objective was to collect existing information mainly for the purpose of influencing Government action on a given issue.

## Cape Verde

*New Constitution:* The first Constitution of the Republic of Cape Verde was approved by the constituent National People's Assembly on 5 September 1980 and promulgated on 7 October 1980. Following the coup d'Etat which took place in Guinea-Bissau on 14 November 1980\* and the subsequent denunciation of a planned political integration of the two countries, the Cape Verdean authorities decided on 19 January 1981 to change the name of its only political party, hitherto called the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC), to the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), and to eliminate from the text of the 1980 Constitution any reference to the possibility of integration between the two countries. This first modification of the Constitution was approved by the newly-elected Assembly\*\* on 12 February 1981.

Under the new Constitution, the National People's Assembly is the supreme organ of State power. It elects the President of the Republic from among its members for a period of five years (the length of its own term of office). The person elected President of the Republic loses his parliamentary mandate. The Prime Minister is nominated by the President of the Republic from among the members of the Assembly as well and also loses his parliamentary mandate if the Assembly approves his nomination as Head of Government.

The Constitution provides for the right of immunity of Deputies. It also states that the Assembly may decide to recall a member if he seriously fails to accomplish his duties as representative of the nation.

\* See page 13.

\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 49.

The Assembly holds two sessions a year. One of the sessions must be devoted to consideration of the State Budget and the Government's report on its activities. The Assembly is vested with full legislative powers, controls the constitutionality of laws, ratifies treaties, may organize popular referendums and approves the revision of the Constitution upon a proposal submitted by at least one-third of its membership and adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members. Legislation can be initiated by members of the Assembly or by the Government. The Assembly may authorize the Government to pass decree-laws on matters normally falling within its own fields of competence. Such decree-laws are considered as ratified by the Assembly if no member of the Assembly requests their reconsideration during the five plenary sittings of the Assembly following their publication.

The Government is politically responsible to the National People's Assembly and to the President of the Republic. Deputies have the right to address oral or written questions to Government members. Answers should be provided during the same session or, in the case of questions requiring investigation, within a period which does not exceed 15 days.

*Electoral Law:* The general elections held on 7 December 1980\* were regulated by an Electoral Law (*Lei No. 2/80*) promulgated on 9 September 1980.

## Colombia

*Constitutional reform:* An extensive constitutional reform was approved by the Congress in 1979 and promulgated on 29 November 1979 as Legislative Act No. 1 of 1979 (*Acto legislativo Numero 1 de 1979*). The new provisions introduced by that Act reinforce the measures of control and oversight of different governmental and administrative departments.

As far as the Congress and its members are concerned, the new provisions stipulate the following:

(a) The functions of the Congress are to adopt constitutional and ordinary laws and to exercise *oversight* of all activities of the Government and the Administration. Such oversight is mainly exercised by standing committees of both Houses of the Congress, whose investigating powers are enlarged and institutionalized. The new provisions also foresee the creation, within 30 days after the installation of a newly-elected Congress, of a joint Permanent Committee composed of 27 members (13 elected by the Senate and 14 by the House of Representatives, on the basis of carefully calculated geographical distribution and proportional political representation) which is to be exclusively responsible for a detailed consideration of all bills or recommendations concerning the *National Plan for Economic and Social Development*, and for the control of its implementation. Each new Government must, within the first 100 days after its appointment, present to Congress its programme of economic policy and possible suggestions for the revision of the National Economic Plan; the debate on the programme and on any bills relating to the Plan have absolute priority in the order of business;

(b) *Standing Committees* are nominated for a period of four years (instead of two years, as previously). Their chairmen are elected for a period of one year and cannot be immediately re-elected for another term;

(c) *The President of each House* and the Vice-Presidents are elected for a period of one year (starting from 20 July of each year) and cannot be re-elected for a subsequent term;

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 49.



(d) A law should determine the coverage that the national *Press* and *mass media* should give to Congress and its activities. By a special decision of both Houses, their directing authorities may prompt wider broadcasting of information on certain specific activities or matters under debate by Congress;

(e) *Members of Congress* are protected by parliamentary *immunity* during the session as well as 30 (instead of 40) days before and 20 days after it. They lose their *mandate* (by a decision of the Council of State, which is the supreme advisory body of the State in all matters relating to administration) if they do not resolve an incompatible situation in relation to the holding of another office or occupation, or by reason of being absent without leave from eight plenary sittings during which votes have been taken. A constitutional provision stipulates that all votes on bills and other legislative acts are to be announced at least three days in advance. Members of Congress must inform the directing authority of their respective Houses of any business relationship and financial interests they may have during a period of two years prior to the introduction before Congress of a matter on which a decision should be taken. The names of such members are published in the verbatim records of the House and those members may be prevented from taking part in a specific vote;

(f) To qualify for election as a Senator, a candidate must be at least 35 (and not 30) years of age;

(g) A new paragraph of Article 47 of the Constitution provides that Congress may decide by a vote of two-thirds of the members present to regulate by law the organization and financing of *political parties*. The Constitution had so far contained no provision concerning political parties.

## France

*Increase in number of Senators:* In accordance with the provisions of the Organic Law No. 76-643 of 16 July 1976, which established a gradual, three-stage increase in the number of Senators, from 285 in 1976 to 316 in 1983, the second stage of this increase was implemented at the time of the September 1980 senatorial elections\*, when the number of Senators was raised from 297 to 305.

*Budgetary procedure:* A modification of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly, adopted on 27 June 1980, and a similar modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Senate, adopted by the latter on 23 October 1980, introduce the possibility for these two Houses to decide to undertake a second deliberation of the first part of a Finance Bill before starting the consideration of the second part of the Bill. If, prior to the vote on the whole Bill, the Assembly decides to hold a second deliberation on a part or the whole of that Bill, its first part can only be modified to the extent that it is necessary to coordinate its contents with the modifications introduced in the second part of the Bill.

If the Senate takes a vote on the first part of the Finance Bill and does not approve it, the whole Bill is considered rejected by the Senate.

The first part of a Finance Bill states the general conditions for a balanced State budget and establishes the ways and means for both public revenues and expenditures. The second part of the Bill elaborates in detail the global estimates of expenditures, department by department.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 61.

## Germany (Federal Republic of)

*Juridical status of the members of the Bundestag:* On 22 September 1980, the *Bundestag* adopted an amendment to the 1977 Law on the Juridical Status of the members of the *Bundestag* (*Abgeordnetengesetz vom 18. Februar 1977, BGBI. I S. 297*)\* which provides that university professors may, if they wish, continue to teach and do research on a part-time basis while exercising their parliamentary mandate and that if, on the contrary, they decide to abandon their university post temporarily, they be allowed to return to it without discrimination after leaving Parliament.

The 1980 amendment act introduces into the original text, as a new Section 10, a recapitulation of the basic provisions of a code of conduct for members of the *Bundestag* concerning their economic interests outside Parliament, first established in 1972.

## Guinea-Bissau

*Constitution and People's National Assembly suspended:* On 14 November 1980, four days after the approval by the People's National Assembly of the new Constitution of Guinea-Bissau, the Prime Minister of the country, Major João Bernardo Vieira, overthrew President Luís Cabral in a coup d'Etat and formed a revolutionary council to rule the country under his leadership. This body announced the revocation of the new Constitution, the dissolution of the People's National Assembly and the establishment of the new Government.

The revoked Constitution confirmed the intentions of the ruling party, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC), to reunify Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde\*\* and to give President Luís Cabral, a Cape Verdean, wide executive powers: he would have combined the functions of Head of State with those of Head of Government.

## Guyana

*New Constitution:* The decision to draft a new Constitution for the country (providing for a presidential type of government) was taken by the National Assembly on 21 July 1978\*\*\*. At the same time, the National Assembly extended its term for 15 months, until October 1979, and assumed since then the additional functions of a Constituent Assembly. The term of the Assembly was extended for another year in October 1979 in order to give time to the existing institutions to prepare themselves for a smooth transfer to a new régime.

The drafting was completed on 18 January 1980. The Constitution Bill was assented to by the President of the Republic on 20 February 1980, and the *Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Act 1980* (No. 2 of 1980) entered into force on 6 October 1980. On that occasion, the Prime Minister in office, Mr. Burnham, became the first President of the new Republic. The National Assembly was dissolved on 25 October 1980, and general elections were scheduled for 15 December 1980\*\*\*\*.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections XI* (1976-1977), pp. 18-19.

\*\* See page 10.

\*\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 16.

\*\*\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 77.



The National Assembly is elected for a period of five years. On any list of candidates at a general election, one candidate shall be specifically designated as candidate for the presidency of the Republic and is considered elected President if his list wins the majority of votes cast for the election to the National Assembly.

The President of the Republic nominates the Prime Minister, other Ministers and parliamentary secretaries from among the 65 elected members of the National Assembly or persons outside Parliament; those Ministers who are in the latter category are considered to be members of the National Assembly while in office but do not have the right to vote. The Cabinet of Ministers helps and advises the President in the discharge of his executive functions.

The President designates — from among the elected members of the National Assembly who do not support the Government — the most appropriate person, according to his judgment, to act as Minority Leader.

The removal from office of the President of the Republic on grounds of physical or mental incapacity may only be proposed by the members of the National Assembly whose names appeared as candidates on the same list as that of the President. A board of three qualified medical practitioners investigates the case and reports to the Chancellor (President of the Court of Appeal). A motion alleging violation of the Constitution or gross misconduct by the President must be signed by the absolute majority of all the elected members of the National Assembly and is voted upon seven days after it has been tabled. The setting up of a specially-designated investigating tribunal requires the approval of two-thirds of all the elected members of the Assembly. The removal from office of the President, based on such investigation, must be approved by a three-quarter majority of all elected members of the Assembly. The President must leave office within three days following such a vote, or dissolve the Assembly.

The National Assembly makes laws which are assented to by the President. A bill receiving a presidential veto must be supported by a two-thirds majority of the elected members of the Assembly in order to be resubmitted for assent. The President may then decide to grant his assent or dissolve Parliament.

The Constitution provides, *inter alia*, for a Supreme Congress of the People of Guyana, which consists of all members of the National Assembly and all members of the National Congress of local Democratic Organs (i.e. elected representatives of regional councils). The Supreme Congress of the People makes recommendations to the National Assembly and the Government on any matter of public interest. The chairmanship of the Congress is assumed by the Speaker of the National Assembly, and the secretariat by the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk.

## India

*Constitutional validity of the Constitution (Forty-Second) Amendment Act: 1976:* By a unanimous decision adopted on 1 August 1980, the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the amendment to Article 368 of the Constitution introduced by the Forty-Second Amendment Act of 18 December 1976\*.

Sub-sections 4 and 5, which were added to Article 368 in 1976, laid down that there should be no limitation on the constituent power of the Parliament to amend, by way of

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections XI* (1976-1977), pp. 14-15.

addition, variation or repeal, any provisions of the Constitution and that no constitutional amendment made before or after the adoption of the Forty-Second Amendment Act could be questioned by any court of law on any ground. According to the Supreme Court judgment, the limited amending powers were the basic features of the Constitution and no Parliament could acquire the power to destroy its essence and the basic structure of balance of powers which it contains.

*Remuneration of MPs:* With effect from 1 March 1981, the special allowance which members of Parliament are entitled to receive in addition to their monthly salary (Rs. 500) was increased from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per month under the provision of the *Members of Parliament (Additional Facilities) Amendment Rules, 1981*.

## **Ireland**

*Electoral Law:* The provisions of the *Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1980* (No. 40 of 1980, assented to on 23 December 1980) stipulate that where, following a revision of constituencies, the constituency which elected the *Ceann Comhairle* (Speaker of the House of Representatives) at the previous general election has been changed, the Speaker must in a written declaration, addressed to the Clerk of the House, specify the constituency (which should include part of his "old" constituency) for which he is to be re-elected in future as an unopposed candidate.

*Remuneration of MPs:* With effect from 1 October 1980, the allowances of the members of the *Dáil Eireann* (House of Representatives) amount to Irish £ 12,899 a year and those of Senators £ 7,121 a year (since 26 June 1980 these allowances had been £ 11,895 and £ 6,545, respectively).

## **Israel**

*Disqualification from Knesset membership or temporary suspension:* Under the provisions of a new amendment to the *Basic Law on the Knesset*, adopted on 1 April 1981, the *Knesset* may, by resolution, deprive a member of his seat if that person is convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to prison for one year or more. Such a resolution may only be adopted at the request of at least 10 *Knesset* members and on the recommendation of the House Committee. After having heard the member concerned, the *Knesset* takes a decision by a majority of two-thirds of its members.

The same amendment provides that a member may be suspended from the *Knesset* if convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment. The decision of the *Knesset* is taken, following the recommendation of the House Committee, upon the proposal of a *Knesset* member. The suspension applies while the sentence is being served, during which time the temporarily vacant seat is filled by the next-in-line candidate on the party list which the imprisoned member represents. This introduces a new category of *Knesset* member — the temporary member.

*List of candidates:* Under the provisions of an amendment to the *Knesset Election Law*, adopted on 19 February 1981, a list of candidates submitted by a political group not represented in the outgoing *Knesset* requires the signed endorsement of 1,500 registered voters (instead of the previous 750 signatures) and a deposit with the Central Elections

Committee of SI 20,000. The deposit is returned if the list receives at least 1% of the votes cast and thus wins at least one seat in the *Knesset*.

*Committee rules:* New regulations for committee procedure, approved in April 1981, empower chairmen of committees to remove from the committee meeting a member who ignores three calls to order and even to bring the matter before the House Committee, which may decide to exclude the offender who persists in his unruly conduct for up to five committee sittings.

The House Committee decided on 24 March 1981 that a *Knesset* member who has a personal financial or material interest in a matter under discussion before a committee — and which may result in granting benefits or rights to any party involved — must state his situation at the beginning of the debate and shall not take part in the vote.

## Ivory Coast

*Constitutional amendments:* In autumn 1981, the National Assembly adopted two laws amending the 1960 Constitution: Law No. 80-1038 of 1 September 1980, modifying Articles 10 and 29 of the Constitution, and an additional amendment to Articles 9, 10 and 11, of 25 November.

The provision contained in the original Article 29, stating that the members of the National Assembly are elected from a nationwide party list of candidates, is repealed. The new provisions included in Article 29 stipulate that the term of the National Assembly expires at the end of the second regular session of the fifth year after the election. The elections for a new House must take place between 20 and 50 days before the end of the term of office of the previous Assembly.

*Electoral Law:* With a view to the general election scheduled for December 1980\*, the National Assembly adopted in September 1980 a new Electoral Law providing for an increase in the membership of the National Assembly from 120 to 147, the abolition of the single nationwide party list of candidates and the possibility for individual candidates to stand for election.

## Jamaica

*Electoral reform:* With a view to the general elections scheduled for autumn 1980\*\*, and within the framework of large-scale discussion of electoral reform\*\*\*, Parliament adopted in early 1980 two further amendments to the *Representation of the People Act* (*Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 1980* and *Representation of the People (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1980*).

The amendments provide for measures to improve the procedure of identification of electors who present themselves to returning officers at polling stations so as to avoid two major recurring sources of electoral abuse: impersonation (voting under a fictitious name or in the name of a deceased person) and multiple voting by an individual. The measures include the use at polling stations of computer print-outs of all the information contained

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 89.

\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 91.

\*\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-1980), p. 19.



in the registration rolls concerning each elector (instead of relying on electors' registration cards, as was formerly the case), as well as the use of special equipment designed to detect the presence of electoral ink on a person's fingers within 48 hours after use.

Another clause of the amendment empowers the Governor-General to adjourn the polling day in all or some specific constituencies in the event of riot, manifest violence or other civil disturbances.

## Bahrain

*Establishment of a National Assembly:* On 24 August 1980, the Amir (Head of State) of Bahrain announced by decree that a new National Assembly would be established in February 1981\* and that the provisions of the Constitution concerning the National Assembly which had been repealed in 1976\*\* were again in force.

Under the 1962 Constitution, the National Assembly is composed of 50 members, elected for a period of four years. The Assembly meets in one regular session a year, starting from the third Saturday in October and lasting at least eight months.

Legislative power is vested in the National Assembly and the Amir. The National Assembly exercises its power of oversight of the Executive Branch by means of a debate on the programme of a newly-elected Government, through questions and interpellations, through inquiries undertaken by its committees, in particular its Committee on Petitions, and by organizing debates (upon the request of at least five of its members) on topical matters of general interest.

A debate on an interpellation takes place eight days after its deposit. It may be followed seven days later, if requested by the Minister concerned or at least 10 members, by a vote of no-confidence requiring the support of an absolute majority of votes of all the members of the Assembly, excluding Ministers. No specific vote of confidence can be requested concerning the Prime Minister. If, however, no co-operation between the National Assembly and the Prime Minister is possible, the Amir may decide either to dissolve the National Assembly or to remove the Prime Minister from office. If, after its installation, the newly-elected Assembly decides by an absolute majority of votes of all its members to request the removal of the same Prime Minister, the Amir is bound to replace him.

The Amir dissolves the Assembly by a decree indicating his reasons. However, the dissolution of the Assembly cannot be repeated for the same reasons. After a dissolution, the election of a new Assembly should be held within a period of two months, otherwise the dissolved Assembly must be reconvened.

## Malawi

*Appointed Members of Parliament:* Under the terms of the *Constitution (Amendment) Act 1981* (No. 8 of 1981, assented to on 5 March 1981), the President of the Republic is entitled to appoint an unlimited number of members of Parliament in addition to the elected members. Under the previous constitutional provisions, the number of appointed members was limited to 15.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 93.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections XI* (1976-1977), p. 22.



*Pension benefits for MPs: Parliamentary Pensions (Enabling Provisions) Act 1981* (No. 11 of 1981, assented to on 8 May 1981) provides for the establishment of contributor funds for the purpose of effecting and maintaining pensions and related benefits for members of the National Assembly and their dependants. The Parliamentary Pensions Premium Fund is administered by the Trustees, i.e., the Speaker of the National Assembly and two other persons appointed by the President of the Republic. Members of the National Assembly and Ministers contribute 5% of their salary into the Fund and the Government provides an annual contribution equal to twice the total sum paid into the Fund by individual contributors. Any member of the National Assembly who exercised his or her parliamentary mandate for any period of time since 1 January 1972 (the date when the above-mentioned Act is deemed to have come into operation) is entitled to a pension benefit to be defined and fixed by the Fund Trustees.

## Malaysia

*Constitutional amendments: Constitution of Malaysia (Amendment) Act 1981*, passed by Parliament on 10 April 1981, contains several new provisions concerning the functioning of Parliament, *inter alia*: a Senator cannot hold office for more than two terms (not necessarily consecutive) of three years each; a member of either House who has been granted leave of absence cannot participate in any manner in the business of the House during his leave; the President of the Senate, the Speaker and their Deputies may be declared by their respective Houses disqualified for the function if it is proved that they are involved in any remunerative business or activity; the Head of State is empowered to promulgate ordinances with the force of law while a state of emergency is in operation and the two Houses of Parliament do not sit concurrently.

*Remuneration of MPs: The King promulgated on 31 July 1980 the Members of Parliament (Remuneration) Act 1980* (Act No. 237 of 1980), providing for an increase in parliamentary salaries and pension benefits.

The monthly allowance of a member of the House of Representatives is thus increased from M\$ 1,500 to M\$ 3,000, and that of a Senator from M\$ 1,000 to M\$ 2,000. Members of Parliament are also entitled to a monthly travelling allowance of M\$ 150 and a driver's allowance of M\$ 250 per month; a daily allowance of M\$ 50 for each day of sitting or on mission; economy-class air travel while on duty; free first-class railway pass; free postage for official correspondence; free telephone in their private residence; and free medical benefits.

A former member of Parliament is granted a pension after having completed 36 months of service, not necessarily consecutively. The monthly pension is calculated on the basis of a quotient of 1/144, multiplied by the period of service and the salary, subject to a maximum of half the MP's salary. A former member with 36 months of office is also entitled to a lump sum gratuity of M\$ 27,000 (M\$ 54,000 if he has served for at least 72 months).

## Mali

*Term of office of the House: By a decision taken at the congress of the sole ruling party, Union démocratique du peuple malien, held from 10 to 12 February 1981, the term of office of the National Assembly has been reduced from four years (as stated in the 1977 Constitution) to three years.*

## Malta

*Pension benefits for MPs:* An Act to amend the *Members of Parliament Pensions Act* was adopted by the House of Representatives on 14 April 1981 (*Members of Parliament Pensions Amendment) Act 1981* — No. XIII of 1981). Under this amendment, a member of parliament who is over 65 years of age may receive, in addition to his MP's salary, two-thirds of a pension to which he is otherwise entitled under the provisions of the National Insurance Act. A widow or widower of a member is granted two-thirds of the pension which the deceased member would have been receiving.

## Nepal

*Constitutional amendment:* On 15 December 1980, the King issued by decree the *Third Amendment to the 1967 Constitution*. This measure had been foreseen by the King in his comments on the results of the May 1980 referendum, when the people had voted against the introduction of a multiparty parliamentary system and in favour of maintaining the 1967 Constitution\*.

The Third Amendment contains, *inter alia*, major modifications of the provisions concerning the national representative body, the *Rashtriya Panchayat*: its 112 members are to be elected in direct elections from among candidates presented by various socio-professional organizations, while 28 (instead of 23) of its members are to be designated by the King; the Prime Minister is to be elected by the *Rashtriya Panchayat* by at least 60% of the votes cast (and is no longer appointed by the King); other members of the Cabinet are appointed by the King upon the advice of the Prime Minister and are all directly responsible to the Assembly.

The holding of the first direct elections in the country since 1959 was announced by the King in March 1981 and scheduled for 9 May 1981\*\*.

## New Zealand

*Electoral Law:* Following a comprehensive review of the existing electoral legislation undertaken by a parliamentary Select Committee on the Electoral Law, the House of Representatives passed in October 1980 an act to amend the *Electoral Act 1956 (Electoral Amendment Act 1980)* and introduced several minor modifications to the existing Law. They include: (a) a provision that the general revision of electoral rolls should take place every three years, coinciding with the holding of a general election; (b) the replacement of the expression "European electorate" by the term "general electorate", defined as the total population with the exception of the Maori electoral population, persons residing on ships or as temporary guests in hotels, as well as those residing temporarily in a defence area, a mental hospital or a penal institution. According to the new provisions, persons with a permanent resident status in New Zealand, although not citizens of New Zealand, may register as electors provided they have established a permanent residence for more than one

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-1980), pp. 21-22.

\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 99.



year in the country and for more than three months in the district where they wish to register\*.

*Remuneration of MPs:* The provisions incorporated in the *Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Determination 1980*\*\* of May 1980 were modified on 23 September 1980 (*Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Determination 1980, Amendment No. 2*) and on 5 June 1981 (*Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Determination 1980, Amendment No. 4*) in the following way:

As from 1 April 1980, the expense allowance of an MP was increased from NZ\$ 5,060 to NZ\$ 5,819 a year. The electorate allowances of members representing the general electorate were increased from NZ\$ 530-2,595 to NZ\$ 630-3,070 (amount depending on the type of electoral district represented, whether an urban or rural one). Allowances of members representing Maori electoral districts were increased from NZ\$ 3,020-3,440 to NZ\$ 3,580-4,070. Day allowances were increased from NZ\$ 10 to NZ\$ 11 and night allowance from NZ\$ 22 to NZ\$ 24. The Speaker of the House was provided with a basic expense allowance of NZ\$ 4,428 (instead of NZ\$ 3,850) and a special additional allowance of NZ\$ 4,048 (instead of NZ\$ 3,520) a year.

As from 11 June 1981, an MP's salary was increased from NZ\$ 23,390 to NZ\$ 29,552. The Speaker's salary was set at NZ\$ 45,555 (instead of NZ\$ 37,082) a year.

## Nicaragua

*Establishment of a Council of State:* On 20 July 1979, the five-member Junta of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) overthrew President Somoza, proclaimed itself the Government of National Reconstruction and issued, on the same day, the Basic Statute of the Republic of Nicaragua (*Estatuto Fundamental*), which provided for the dissolution of the existing Chamber of Deputies and Senate and conferred legislative power on the Junta and a representative body called the Council of State.

The Council of State is composed of representatives of different political and socio-economic organizations and trade unions, designated by these organizations according to their internal rules. The members of the Council of State must be citizens of Nicaragua and at least 18 years of age. Originally, the total number of these representatives had been 33 but this number was modified twice: by *Decree No. 374* of 16 April 1980 it was increased to 47, and by *Decree No. 718* of 10 May 1981, it was further increased to 51. In August 1980 the Junta announced that general elections for a directly-elected Parliament would be held in 1985 and that electoral activities would be authorized as from January 1984.

The organization and functions of the Council of State are defined by the General Statute of the Council of State (*Estatuto General del Consejo de Estado* - *Decree No. 388* of 2 May 1980), its two amendments (*Decrees No. 460 and 461* of 28 June 1980) and the Rules of Procedure (*Reglamento del Consejo de Estado*) adopted on 4 June 1980.

Under the provisions of these decrees, the Council of State is empowered to approve bills submitted to it by the Government Junta, to initiate legislation, to draft a new Constitution and a new electoral law and to request specific reports from Ministers on subjects of public

\* For previous modifications see *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XI* (1977-1978), p. 37, and *XIV* (1979-1980), p. 23.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-1980), pp. 23-24.

interest. Any legislative proposal initiated by the Council of State must be moved by at least five of its members (originally 10 members, but modified by *Decree No. 461*). It is immediately transmitted to the appropriate committee for preliminary consideration. Once adopted by the Council of State, the bill is submitted to the Government Junta for sanction. The Government may modify and then informs the Council of State of the modifications. If the Government vetoes the bill, a second deliberation by the Council of State cannot take place until the following session. Government bills are not sent to appropriate committees for consideration. The Council of State is usually entitled to 10 days to deal with a Government bill under a priority procedure. The Government Junta adopts the State Budget and is empowered to put it into effect by decree.

The Council of State establishes 10 permanent committees dealing with the following subject matters: defence and interior; justice; foreign affairs; education and cultural affairs; health and welfare; labour and social security; supplies; production and agrarian reform; finance; communal services, urban reform and human resources. The officers of the Council of State are the President, three vice-Presidents and three Secretaries. They are elected individually for a period of one year and can be re-elected. The Council of State holds its ordinary session from 4 May to 4 December each year.

## **Panama**

*Elections to National Legislative Council:* Direct elections to fill 19 of 57 seats of the National Legislative Council (the Upper House of the National Assembly of Community Representatives) were held on 28 September 1980, with the participation, for the first time since 1968, of several political parties alongside the governing Democratic Revolutionary Party (*Partido Revolucionario Democrático*).

The remaining 38 seats are filled every two years by indirect election from among 505 members of the National Assembly of Community Representatives.

The 1980 elections were regulated by *Law No.10* of 30 April 1980. Each province elected two representatives for a period of six years, each voter choosing one or two names from the lists of candidates proposed by a political party or a group of registered voters (the required number of sponsors for independent candidates varied according to the province and was calculated on the basis of the total number of the province's registered voters).

In order to participate in the election, a new party had to testify before the Electoral Tribunal that it had a membership of at least 10,000 and not less than 10 members in at least 40% of the electoral districts throughout the country.

Candidates for election had to be Panamanian by birth or for a minimum of 10 years, 18 years of age, with a residence in the province where they stood for election for a minimum of 12 months and in full possession of civil and political rights.

As a result of the elections, the 19 seats to be filled were distributed in the following manner: the Democratic Revolutionary Party won 10 seats, the Liberal Party 5 seats, the Christian Democratic Party 2 seats, the Panamanian People's Party 1 seat, while one seat was won by an independent candidate.

Consequently, the distribution of the 57 seats of the National Legislative Council is as follows:



Political Group	Number of Seats
Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) . . . .	48
Liberal Party . . . . .	5
Christian Democratic Party . . . . .	2
Panamanian People's Party . . . . .	1
Independents . . . . .	1
	<hr/> 57

## Philippines

*Constitutional amendments:* On 9 December 1980, the *Batasang Pambansa* (Parliament) adopted a series of amendments to the Constitution, subsequently approved by the people in a plebiscite on 7 April 1981.

The amendments include provisions for the direct election of the President of the Republic (the final vote count being held in the presence of all the members of the *Batasang Pambansa*) and for the creation of a new executive body, in addition to the Cabinet, called the Executive Committee. This is to be composed of the Prime Minister, as its chairman, and a maximum of 14 members, at least half of whom are to be members of the *Batasang Pambansa*. Its function is to assist the President in the exercise of his powers and functions.

A certain number of new provisions directly concern the composition and functioning of the *Batasang*.

The second Monday in May 1984 is fixed as the date for the holding of the next general elections for about 200 members of Parliament, including representatives elected from the different regions of the Philippines (regional representatives) and those elected or selected from various walks of life (sectoral representatives). The President of the Republic may appoint a certain number of members from among Cabinet Ministers. Their mandate will be for six years as from the last day of June following the election. The regional representatives are to be chosen from among voters of the respective region, aged at least 25, able to read and write and resident in this region for not less than one year.

Section 8 of Article VIII provides that the members of the *Batasang* receive an annual salary of 60,000 pesos (75,000 pesos in the case of the Speaker) and that no increase in salary may take effect until after the expiry of the term of the *Batasang* approving such an increase.

The provisions concerning confidence in the Prime Minister (which could be withdrawn only by electing a successor by a majority of votes of all the members of the *Batasang*) were replaced by new provisions: a motion for a vote of no-confidence must be signed by at least one-fifth of the members of the *Batasang* and may be debated and voted upon only seven days later. Within 10 days of its adoption, the President may submit a nominee for the post of Prime Minister to be elected by the *Batasang* (by a majority of all its members) or, upon the advice of the Prime Minister, dissolve the *Batasang* and consult the people in a popular vote of confidence when the issue concerns fundamental matters and does not involve the personal integrity of the Prime Minister. The dissolution of Parliament cannot take place

within 18 months prior or subsequent to a regular election, nor may the *Batasang* be dissolved more often than once every 12 months (Article VIII, section 13).

## Iceland

*Supreme Chamber of Control:* On 8 October 1980, the Diet adopted an amendment to articles 34 to 36 of the Constitution and a new law, both concerning the powers and the organization of the Supreme Chamber of Control.

The new provisions restore the original direct subordination of the Supreme Chamber of Control to the Diet (rather than to the Council of State, as had been the case since 1976) and enlarge its sphere of competence to oversight of the Council of Ministers and all governmental and State administration departments and activities. Its most important task is to exercise close scrutiny of the Government's annual reports on public accounts and the implementation of the economic plan, and to submit its detailed observations to the Diet. It is empowered to undertake specific inquiries at the request of the Diet.

The Chamber is directed by a college composed of members representing different socio-professional categories of the population and nominated by the Council of State, with the exception of its President, who is nominated by the Diet.

## Republic of Korea

*New Constitution:* The drafting of a new Constitution officially began on 20 January 1980, with the creation of a study group of 30 experts, superseded in March by a Constitutional Amendment Deliberation Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The National Assembly also participated in the process through its *ad hoc* committee on constitutional revision. The drafting was concluded in September, and the proposed new Constitution was made public on 29 September 1980. The Constitution was approved in a national referendum, held on 22 October 1980, by 91.6% of the votes cast (95.5% of the registered voters having taken part in the consultation).

On the day of promulgation of the Constitution, 27 October 1980, the existing National Assembly was dissolved and 81 members of a Legislative Council for National Security, a transitory legislative body, were nominated by the President of the Republic. According to the transitory provisions of the new Constitution, the Legislative Council was empowered to legislate and, in particular, to adopt a new electoral law and prepare the presidential and legislative elections to be held in the first half of 1981. The Legislative Council ceased to exist on 11 April 1981, the day of the first, inaugural session of a new National Assembly elected for a period of four years on 25 March 1981\*.

The 1980 Constitution provides for a National Assembly whose members (maximum 300) are all popularly-elected (one-third of the members of the previous National Assembly were nominated by the President of the Republic). The term of office of the members was lowered from six to four years. The restriction against holding a remunerative occupation in addition to the parliamentary mandate was abolished. Article 82 stipulates that members of the National Assembly shall maintain high standards of integrity and shall not, through abuse of their positions, acquire rights and interests in property or position.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 109.

The Assembly holds one regular session per year. The annual total number of sitting days in regular and extraordinary sessions should not exceed 150 days.

The Assembly has the right to investigate specific matters concerning State affairs. It may decide, by an absolute majority vote of its members, to remove the Prime Minister from office. It cannot proceed with such a vote within one year from the date of his nomination by the President and his confirmation by the National Assembly.

*Electoral Law:* In preparation for the general election for a new National Assembly\*, the Legislative Council adopted a new *Electoral Law*, providing for direct election of all the members of the National Assembly, and the *Election Management Committee Law*, which stipulates that the President of the Republic, the National Assembly and the Chief Justice each appoint three members of the Election Committee (under the previous legislation, the President of the Republic alone appointed its members).

## Saint Lucia

*Age qualification for Senators:* Under the provisions of the *Constitution of Saint Lucia (Amendment) Act 1980* (No. 17 of 1980, assented to on 26 September 1980), the minimum age required to qualify for appointment as a Senator was lowered from 30 to 21 years of age.

## Senegal

*Constitutional amendments:* Several articles of the Constitution were modified with the promulgation, on 6 May 1981, of *Law No. 81-16* relative to constitutional revision. The main modifications are as follows:

(a) The number of authorized political parties is no longer limited to four\*\*. The new Article 3 of the Constitution stipulates that political parties must observe respect for the Constitution and the principles of national sovereignty and democracy;

(b) The regularity of the election campaign for both the presidential and legislative elections is controlled by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court also proclaims the final polling results and settles disputes in that connection;

(c) The required number of Deputies entitled to submit jointly a request addressed to the Supreme Court to give a ruling on the constitutionality of a law adopted by the National Assembly is fixed, by the new Article 63, as being the equivalent of one-tenth of the total membership of the National Assembly (which corresponds, under present conditions, to 10 Deputies instead of 15, as was stipulated by the previous text of this Article\*\*). Such a request (whether it emanates from the Deputies or the President of the Republic) must be brought before the Court within six days after the adoption of a law by the Assembly. If no request for a ruling is made within six days, the President of the Republic promulgates the law eight days after the expiration of this delay.

## Singapore

*Constitutional amendments:* The *Constitution (Amendment) Act 1979* (No. 10 of 1979, assented to on 26 April 1979) modifies, *inter alia*, Article 90 of the Constitution by providing

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 109.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 25.



that a bill seeking to amend any provision of the Constitution shall not be passed by Parliament unless it obtains the support of at least two-thirds of the total number of members of Parliament. This provision does not apply to amendments to Article 23 of the Constitution (relative to the number of members of Parliament, which is fixed by ordinary law).

Another constitutional amendment, *Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Act 1980* (No. 24 of 1980, assented to on 7 August 1980), stipulates that among the requirements for qualification to be elected member of Parliament (e.g., citizenship of Singapore, 21 years of age, ability to read, write and speak in one of the following languages: English, Malay, Chinese or Tamil), a candidate must have been resident in Singapore for at least 10 years prior to election day.

*Increase in number of members of Parliament:* On 29 July 1980, Parliament adopted *Parliamentary Membership Act, 1980* (No. 25 of 1980, assented to on 7 August 1980) and thereby increased its membership, as from the next general election\*, from 69 to 75 elected members.

## **Solomon Islands**

*Electoral Law:* With a view to the general elections to be held in the course of 1980\*\*, Parliament passed a new *National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act 1980* (No. 5 of 1980, assented to on 3 April 1980) to replace the *Electoral Provisions (Legislative Assembly) Regulations 1976* in force since before the country's independence.

## **South Africa**

*Constitutional amendments:* Under the new provisions contained in the *Republic of South Africa Constitution Amendment Act 1981* (No. 40 of 1981), the 12 additional members of the House of Assembly (four of whom are nominated by the State President and eight others by the popularly-elected members of the House) remain in office for a limited period of time after the holding of a general election in order to maintain the continuity of membership until the newly-elected House can proceed with new nominations.

*Select Committee on the Constitution:* The House of Assembly established the Select Committee on the Constitution, composed of 20 members, whose mandate is to inquire into and report on proposals to amend the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act. The Committee has power to call for witnesses and documents.

*Modifications of the Electoral Act:* The *Electoral Amendment Act 1981* (No. 35 of 1981) modifies the *Electoral Act 1979* by adding a new provision under which South African registered voters who reside in a territory which has been granted independence may be registered as voters in the province of South Africa of which such territory previously formed part.

*Modifications of the Standing Orders:* A new provision of the Standing Orders underlines the requirement that no bill which purports to consolidate an existing law shall contain provisions amending that law.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 113.

\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 117.



## Switzerland

*Remuneration of MPs:* On 19 June 1981, the Federal Assembly passed a law modifying the Federal Law of 1972 on remuneration of members of the Legislative Councils (*Loi fédérale sur les indemnités dues aux membres des conseils législatifs*). The amendment fixed the annual salary at Sw.Fr. 15,000 (instead of Sw.Fr. 10,000) and introduced a provision for the allocation of a compensation indemnity of a maximum of Sw.Fr. 10,000 a year to members who suffer tangible losses in their regular income due to the exercise of the parliamentary mandate.

The daily allowance for each sitting day was increased from Sw.Fr. 150 to Sw.Fr. 230 (doubled in the case of committee chairmen). Members receive up to Sw.Fr. 5,000 a year (depending on the distance between their place of residence and the capital) in reimbursement of their travel expenses and Sw.Fr. 40 per sitting day (Sw.Fr. 80, if combined with an overnight stay in Bern) as reimbursement for meals and minor expenses.

The Presidents of the National Council and the Council of States receive an additional allowance of Sw.Fr. 18,000 (instead of Sw.Fr. 12,000) a year for special expenses connected with their office.

The contributions paid by the Confederation to the party groups in the Federal Assembly were increased for all groups from Sw.Fr. 10,000 to 15,000 a year, to which are added Sw.Fr. 3,000 (instead of 2,000) a year per member. Secretarial and research assistance for members of the Federal Assembly is mainly provided by their respective party groups.

## Tunisia

*Name of Parliament changed:* The National Assembly decided on 6 June 1981 to change its name to "Chamber of Deputies" and adopted to this effect a constitutional amendment which modifies all references to it (*Loi constitutionnelle No. 81-47*).

## Turkey

*Dissolution of the Grand National Assembly:* Following serious political difficulties in the country, a military junta took power on 12 September 1980 under the name of National Security Council. On the same day, the NSC announced the dissolution of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and a temporary transfer of all executive and legislative powers to the Council itself until a directly-elected Assembly might be reinstalled within an entirely new constitutional framework. In the meantime, certain parts of the 1961 Constitution were repealed or amended by the National Security Council and this revised text was issued by decree on 27 October 1980 as the *Constitutional Order Act*.

The military Government later announced that a Constituent Assembly, due to meet in October 1981, would have as its main task the drafting of a new Constitution, an electoral law and a political parties law.

## Uganda

*Establishment of a National Assembly:* Due to the state of affairs in the country at the time of the fall of General Idi Amin Dada's régime in April 1979, the United National

Liberation Front (UNLF) required almost 18 months to prepare direct elections\* for a National Assembly, with the participation of several political parties. The elections were held in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and other laws in force from 1967 until the seizure of power by Idi Amin in January 1971. The Military Commission, i.e. the transitory Government, nevertheless decided to amend those texts wherever strictly necessary.

Thus, the number of members of the National Assembly was fixed at 126 (and not 82) directly-elected members, 10 representatives of the armed forces (a new provision), 10 members appointed by the President (a new provision) and 10 members elected by the National Assembly from a list submitted by the political party which has the majority in the House (that number had been fixed at nine in 1967). The Speaker of the National Assembly is elected by the latter from among its members or from among outside persons qualified for election to the National Assembly.

The Constitution provides details on qualification and disqualification concerning membership of the National Assembly, stipulates that legislative power is vested exclusively in Parliament and that the National Assembly regulates its own procedure by adoption of Standing Orders.

The procedure in the newly-elected Assembly is provisionally regulated by the Standing Orders which were in force from 1962 until the dissolution of Parliament in January 1971.

## **USSR**

*Voters' instructions:* A decree adopted by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on 1 September 1980, and ratified by the Supreme Soviet on 23 October, contains regulations for adoption and implementation of formal instructions that voters are empowered to provide to their Deputies concerning the decisions to be made by relevant soviets at the local, republican or federal level in planning and formulating new social and economic policies.

Such formal voters' instructions are adopted by the voters' assemblies in a public vote by a majority of the votes cast and are transmitted for action to the relevant executive body (in the case of instructions whose scope falls within the field of competence of the USSR Supreme Soviet, to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet). The implementation of such instructions is controlled by the Deputies who report thereon to their respective voters.

## **United Kingdom**

*Disqualification from House of Commons membership:* The *Representation of the People Act 1981* (Ch. 34 of 1981, assented to on 2 July 1981) provides that persons found guilty of an offence and sentenced to be imprisoned for more than one year shall be disqualified from membership of the House of Commons while they are detained anywhere in the British Isles or the Republic of Ireland.

*Procedural changes:* On 30 October 1980, the House of Commons approved a certain number of procedural changes based on the recommendations of the Select Committee on

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 123.

Procedure contained in its report issued in August 1978 (*First Report of the Select Committee on Procedure, session 1977-1978, HC 588*) and which were not covered by the decisions already taken by the House on the basis of this report in June and October 1979\*.

It was thus decided, *inter alia*, to introduce (on an experimental basis and for the duration of one session) the possibility of forming special standing committees with the power to call for evidence and examine witnesses in connection with the consideration of certain bills (i.e., in a way, combination of strictly legislative drafting powers of the standing committees with the investigative powers of the select committees). Such standing committees are given a maximum of 28 days to complete their work and the bills referred to them can only be Government bills which raise substantial issues but not acute party controversies.

Provisions were also made for referring European Community documents to *ad hoc* committees (called "Standing Committees on European Community Documents") which are established afresh, upon request of a Minister, each time it is necessary to consider such documents.

*Remuneration of MPs:* Pursuant to a decision of the House of Commons taken in June 1979 to approve the recommendation of the Review Body on Top Salaries and thus apply a three-stage plan for an increase in MPs' salaries and allowances\*\*, the annual salary of members of the House of Commons was increased in June 1981 from £ 11,750 (granted in July 1980) to £ 13,150 per year.

## United Republic of Cameroon

*Remuneration of MPs:* The basic parliamentary allowance and the special parliamentary expenses allowance granted to members of the National Assembly were modified by *Law No. 80-02* of 14 July 1980 and were set at CFA 134,068 (basic allowance) and CFA 84,171 (special allowance), with effect from 1 December 1979.

## United States of America

*Increase in number of members of the House of Representatives:* With the installation, in January 1981, of the newly-elected (97th) Congress\*\*\*, the number of non-voting members of the House of Representatives increased from four to five. This was due to the fact that, for the first time, American Samoa was represented in the House by a non-voting delegate.

The five non-voting members of the House are: four delegates representing the District of Columbia (the capital territory), Guam, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa, and one resident commissioner for Puerto Rico.

Although they cannot take part in the roll-call, the non-voting members participate freely in debates and consideration of any legislation, can serve on any committee (with voting rights) and are given the usual privileges granted to other Congressmen.

*Remuneration of Representatives:* With effect from 1 May 1981, and for the first time since October 1979, the expense allowances of the members of the House of Representatives

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-79), p. 36.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-80), pp. 35-36.

\*\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 129.



are increased by US\$ 4,300 a year. These allowance are intended to cover office supplies, equipment costs and telephone and postage expenses.

In addition, the Representatives were granted an increase in transportation costs, which range from approximately US\$ 1,950 a year for members from electoral districts close to Washington, D.C. to approximately US\$ 24,600 a year for members representing the remotest districts. The maximum sum payable to a member to enable him to furnish his district office during his service in Congress was increased from US\$ 27,000 to US\$ 35,000.

*Subpoenas:* In accordance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted 17 September 1980, House officers must in future notify the Speaker when they intend to oppose in court subpoenas requesting them to provide testimony or official House documents. This decision was taken to avoid cases where a clerk refuses on his own initiative to submit House records required in a criminal investigation.

## Upper Volta

*Constitution and National Assembly suspended:* Following a coup d'Etat that took place during the night of 24 to 25 November 1980, the new Government, the Military Recovery Committee for National Progress (CMRPN), announced on 25 November that the 1977 Constitution was suspended, the National Assembly dissolved and that all legislative and executive responsibilities would in future be assumed by the Military Committee itself, headed by Colonel Saye Zerbo.

## Vanuatu

*Independence:* The former Anglo-French condominium of the New Hebrides attained independence on 30 July 1980 under the name of the Republic of Vanuatu. The Constitution of the new State was approved in October 1979 by the two administering powers. A month earlier, on 14 November 1979, the elections for a Representative Assembly (called "Parliament" after independence) were held in the presence of United Nations observers. The elections were held in 14 constituencies. Persons holding public offices, judges and members of the police, persons sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 12 months which had not ended three years or more before polling day, as well as undischarged bankrupts, were disqualified from standing for election. Candidates had to be at least 21 years of age and to have resided at least 10 years in the New Hebrides. They were required to be sponsored by at least five registered voters or a party and were obliged to make a deposit of 10,000 New Hebrides francs (the sum was refundable for those who obtained at least 5% of the votes cast in the constituency).

Two major parties contested the elections: the predominantly English-speaking Vanuaaku Pati and the Federal Party of the New Hebrides, an alliance of predominantly French-speaking parties.

The results of the elections were as follows:

Number of registered electors . . . . .	56,636
Voters . . . . .	47,541 (83.9%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	419
Valid votes . . . . .	47,122



Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Vanuaaku Pati (VAP) . . . . .	29,355	62.3	26
Federal Party of the New Hebrides . . . . .	17,767	37.7	13
			<u>39</u>

The term of the Representative Assembly, i.e. Parliament, thus elected should normally expire, under the Constitution, in November 1983, unless previously dissolved.

The Constitution provides for a President of the Republic, elected by an electoral college consisting of Parliament and the Presidents of the Regional Councils, for a Prime Minister elected by secret ballot by Parliament, and for a Council of Ministers elected from among the members of Parliament (their number not exceeding a quarter of the total membership of Parliament). It also provides for a National Council of Chiefs composed of custom chiefs whose function is to issue recommendations relating to matters of tradition, custom and languages.

Parliament enacts laws promulgated by the President of the Republic within two weeks of their adoption. At the request of the President, the Supreme Court may rule on the constitutionality of a bill submitted for promulgation. Parliament is required to provide for an Auditor-General appointed by the Public Service Commission. There is to be an Ombudsman appointed for five years by the President of the Republic after consultation with the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Parliament, the leaders of the political groups in Parliament, etc. The Ombudsman presents annual general reports and special reports on the observance of the principle of multilingualism (under the Constitution, the national language is Bislama and the official languages are Bislama, English and French).

The Constitution contains provisions concerning a Leadership Code: a member of Parliament, for instance, shall not use his office for personal gain and place himself in a conflict-of-interest position, and shall not allow his integrity to be called in question or endanger respect for and confidence in the integrity of the Government of Vanuatu.

## Viet Nam

*New Constitution:* On 18 December 1980, the National Assembly adopted a new Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to replace the Constitution adopted in Hanoi in 1959 and which remained in force even after the reunification of Viet Nam in 1975.

The new Constitution stipulates that the National Assembly is the highest representative body of the people, the highest State authority and the only body vested with full constitutional and legislative powers. The Assembly elects from among its members the Council of State, which acts as the collective presidency of the Republic and as the Assembly's permanent subsidiary body.

The Assembly also elects the National Defence Council (chaired by the President of the Council of State) and the Council of Nationalities. It nominates the President of the Supreme Court and the Procurator General. There is a Council of Ministers, responsible and accountable to the National Assembly.

The right to introduce legislation lies with the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, the members of the National Assembly, the National Defence Council, the Council

nationalities, the Supreme People's Court, the Procurator General, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Trade Union Confederation, the Association of Collective Peasants, the Communist Youth Union and the Women's Union. While ordinary laws are adopted by an absolute majority of all members of the National Assembly, an amendment of the Constitution requires the support of two-thirds of the total number of members.

*Electoral Law:* On 22 December 1980, the National Assembly adopted a new Electoral Law and, on 19 February 1981, the Permanent Committee of the outgoing National Assembly announced by decree the holding of general elections on 26 April\* of the same year, set the number of constituencies at 93 and the total number of members of the National Assembly to be elected at 496.

## **Yugoslavia**

*Constitutional amendments:* A preliminary draft of a series of constitutional amendments was approved by the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly on 29 October 1980 and was submitted for public discussion during the winter of 1980-81. The amendments were again adopted by the Federal Chamber on 9 June 1981, sanctioned by the assemblies of the six Republics and two Autonomous Provinces and promulgated during the SFRY Assembly on 1 July 1981.

The purpose of the majority of those amendments is to provide for a more frequent renewal of certain office-holders in the self-management system adopted at all levels of decision-making, from the workers' or community assemblies to the federal State organs. Thus, *inter alia*, Amendment III provides that the President and the Vice-President of the SFRY Assembly and the Presidents of its two component Chambers (Federal Chamber and the Chamber of Republics and Provinces) shall be elected for a term of one year, instead of four and two years, respectively, as previously. The President of the Assembly and the two Presidents of the Chambers shall be elected every year from a different Republic or Autonomous Province.

Amendment V provides that the candidates for election to the Federal Executive Council (Government) shall be canvassed by the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia. They are elected by the SFRY Assembly for a period of four years. The President of the Federal Executive Council cannot be elected to this post for two consecutive terms, while members of the Federal Executive Council cannot assume that function for more than two consecutive terms. Two years after the election, the Government must submit a report on its work to the SFRY Assembly. The Assembly may decide, after a debate, to make a vote of confidence which may lead, if such is the will of its members, to a collective removal from office of the Federal Executive Council.

The above-mentioned amendments will enter into force upon the installation of a newly-elected Assembly in 1982.

## **Lebanon**

*Constitutional amendments:* A series of amendments to the Constitution were promulgated on 15 November 1980 as *Law No. 80-012*. Their aim is to define a new

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 135.

organization of the People's Movement for the Revolution and the relationship of different directing bodies of the Movement to other organs of State power.

Thus, *inter alia*, the decisions of the newly-established Central Committee of the Movement are considered as State decisions and are of a binding nature as to their implementation by the Legislative Council (Parliament) in cases of legislative proposals.

The above revision of the Constitution was the second one introduced in 1980. The previous modifications were promulgated in February 1980\*.

## Zambia

*Remuneration of MPs:* Act No. 3 of 1981, the *Central Committee Members, Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices (Emoluments) Act, 1981*, repeals the previous legislative provisions on this matter and fixes, *inter alia*, as from August 1980, the following salaries and allowances of members of the National Assembly:

Members receive an annual salary of Zambian Kwacha 8,400 and a special allowance at the annual rate of K 2,800. To these amounts are added, in the case of elected members, a constituency allowance amounting to K 700-800 a year and, in the case of nominated members, a similar allowance of K 600. The Speaker's salary is calculated at the annual rate of K 12,800 and the special allowance at the rate of K 13,000.

## Zimbabwe

*Qualifications for Senators:* The *Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 2) Act, 1981* (No. 25 of 1981) modifies *inter alia* the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Constitution (relating to qualifications for Senators, members of the House of Assembly and voters) by lowering the required minimum age for election as a Senator from 40 to 30 years of age.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-1980), p. 37.

II

**CHRONICLE OF ELECTIONS**





## ANGOLA

**Date of Elections:** 11 November 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament for the first time since independence was attained in November 1975.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Angola, the People's Assembly, is composed of 229 members elected for 3 years.\*

### **Electoral System**

All Angolan citizens who are at least 18 years of age and have not been deprived of their civil rights are entitled to vote and be candidates for Parliament. Barred from election are Angolans "who were active members of factionalist, puppet groups" and those who have "participated in criminal actions against the people and have not been rehabilitated".

Although parliamentary candidates need not necessarily be members of the country's ruling party, they must be "the most active politically and the most experienced". They are elected by colleges set up in each province and composed of members of the respective provincial assemblies and representatives selected by the populace in their work- or living-places. Candidates must answer all questions posed by citizens at public meetings and their candidatures must be approved by a majority of the people in their districts. This rule also applies to candidates chosen by the party-sponsored mass organizations (such as those of women, youth, labour, etc.).

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Following the attainment of independence and the promulgation of a Constitution in November 1975, the Council of the Revolution was "the supreme organ of the State" and, *inter alia*, exercised legislative powers.

On 19 August 1980\*, it was announced that this Council would be replaced by the national People's Assembly foreseen in the Constitution and that 18 provincial people's assemblies would also be elected. On 23 August, voting for electoral colleges which would choose these legislators began. Most candidates were members of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola - Party of Labour (MPLA-PT), the country's sole political party which had been restructured as a Marxist-Leninist group in December 1977.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 6-7.

The newly-elected People's Assembly was installed on 11 November 1980. The President of the Republic, Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, had assumed office in September 1979; he re-organized his Council of Ministers in March 1981.

## Statistics

### *1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola—Party of Labour (MPLA-PT) . . .	229

### *2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category*

Civil servants . . . . .	64
Workers . . . . .	58
Peasants . . . . .	48
Members of defence or security forces. . . . .	20
Intellectuals. . . . .	7
"Elements of the State apparatus" . . . . .	6
Others . . . . .	26
	<hr/> 229

## AUSTRALIA

**Date of Elections:** 18 October 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the House of Representatives and half (34) of the Senate following premature dissolution of the House on 18 September 1980. Previous general elections had been held in December 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia is bicameral, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Senate comprises 64 members. Of this total, 10 Senators represent each of Australia's six States, being elected for 6 years and renewed by halves every 3 years, while residents of the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are each represented by two Senators, elected at each House of Representatives election.

The House of Representatives, according to the Constitution, must be, as nearly as practicable, twice the size of the Senate. The number of Representatives in each of the country's six States is in proportion to the population, but must be at least five. At present, the membership of the House is 125 members, which includes two members from the Australian Capital Territory and one from the Northern Territory. All Representatives are elected for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All British subjects who have been resident in Australia for six consecutive months, are aged 18 and over, and appear on the continuously revised electoral registers are entitled to vote for members of Parliament. Persons of unsound mind, attainted of treason, under sentence for any offence punishable by imprisonment for one year or more, or persons who are holders of temporary entry permits under the Migration Act, or are prohibited immigrants under that Act, are barred from registering as electors.

Voting is a duty and unwarranted abstention is punishable by fine of up to A\$10.

All persons fulfilling the conditions required for electors who have resided in Australia for at least three years can be elected to the House of Representatives or Senate. Undischarged bankrupts, persons under allegiance to a foreign State, holders of an office of profit or pension payable by the State, as well as certain persons having a pecuniary interest through an agreement with the Government, cannot be members of Parliament.

Candidates to Parliament must be nominated by six qualified electors and make a payment of A\$200 (Senate) or A\$100 (House). This monetary deposit is reimbursed if the candidate polls more than 10% (Senate) or 20% (House) of the average or total number, respectively, of first preference votes polled by the successful candidates in the election.



Members of the House of Representatives are elected in single-member constituencies according to a system of preferential, or alternative, vote. Under this system, members of the House—one for each electoral division—are elected by an absolute majority of the votes cast. Voters are required to indicate, on their ballot paper, an order of preference among all the candidates contesting the same seat. If none of the candidates in a division obtains an absolute majority of the first preference votes, a second count is held. At this point, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated and the votes which he had obtained in the first count are redistributed among the remaining candidates on the basis of the second choice indicated by the electors. This procedure is repeated until such time as one of the candidates obtains an absolute majority.

Senators are elected according to the single-transferable-vote form of proportional representation. Under this system, each elector indicates his order of preference among all the candidates in his constituency. Once the number of first preference votes obtained by each candidate has been recorded, an electoral quota is determined by dividing the total number of first preference votes by the number of seats to be filled and increasing by one the result so arrived at. Any candidate who has received a number of votes equal to or greater than the established quota is declared elected. Should there remain any seats to be filled, a second distribution is carried out on the same basis as the House of Representatives, using the second preference votes, after the surplus votes (i.e., the number in excess of the quota) of the elected candidates have been transferred to the continuing candidates.

A by-election is held to fill any seat which becomes vacant in the House of Representatives between general elections. Vacancies in the Senate are filled by choice of the Houses of Parliament of the particular State or, if the Parliament is not in session, through appointment by that State's Governor, and the person so chosen, if replacing a person publicly recognized as an endorsed member of a political party, must be from the same political party. A joint sitting of both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament is required to choose a Senator if the place of a Senator representing the Australian Capital Territory becomes vacant; if the Parliament is not sitting, the Governor-General may appoint a person to fill the vacancy for a period up to 14 days from the meeting of the Parliament. In the Northern Territory, the vacancy is filled by the Legislative Assembly or, if the Assembly is not sitting, by the Administrator, with the same 14-day limitation. In each of the Territories, the person chosen must be of the same political party as the person replaced, if the person to be replaced was publicly recognized as an endorsed member of a political party.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

On 11 September 1980, Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser (Liberal Party) informed the Parliament that the Governor-General had acceded to the Government's request for a dissolution of the House of Representatives on 18 September, so that general elections for the House and for half the Senate might be held. Mr. Fraser stated that his Government would stand on its record of economic management in the ensuing elections. Mr. Hayden (Australian Labor Party), Leader of the Opposition, stated that the key election issue would be the falling standard of living of the average Australian family.

The Australian Democrats, headed by Senator D. Chipp, entered the 1980 campaign hopeful of winning more Senate seats and holding the balance of power after 1 July 1981;

Senator Chipp stated that, if successful in their aim of achieving the balance of power, the Democrats would use their position to ensure honest government.

On polling day, the Government was returned to power with a reduced majority in the House, but lost its majority in the Senate as from 1 July 1981. From this date on, the Democrats' representation in the Senate will be increased from two to five, the one Independent Senator will remain and the Australian Labor Party will have one additional seat.

Mr. Fraser announced a new Ministry on 3 November, with an overall decrease in the number of Ministers from 27 to 26.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Representatives

Number of registered electors . . . . .	9,014,920
Voters . . . . .	8,513,992 (94.4%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	208,359
Valid votes . . . . .	8,305,633

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution
Liberal Party . . . . .	110	3,108,517	37.4	54	67
National Country Party . . . . .	29	736,153	8.9	20	19
Australian Labor Party . . . . .	125	3,749,605	45.1	51	38
Australian Democrats . . . . .	121	546,033	6.6	—	—
Others . . . . .	117	165,325	2.0	—	—
				125*	124

\* Total number of seats increased following redistribution in Western Australia.

## 2. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Senate

Number of registered electors . . . . .	9,014,920
Voters . . . . .	8,513,992 (94.4%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	821,628
Valid votes . . . . .	7,692,364

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats won at 1980 Elections	Total Number of Seats
Liberal Party . . . . .	31	3,344,924	43.48	17	31**
National Country Party . . . . .					
Australian Labor Party . . . . .	22	3,250,187	42.25	13	27
Australian Democrats . . . . .	22	711,805	9.25	3	5
Others . . . . .	107	385,448	5.02	1	1
				34*	64

\* Includes elections for all four Territory Senators.

\*\* Liberal Party 28, National Country Party 3.

## 3. Distribution of Members of Parliament According to Professional Category

	Senate	House of Representatives
Solicitors and barristers. . . . .	9	20
Union or party officials. . . . .	9	8
University and teaching. . . . .	9	13
Company directors. . . . .	6	7
Farmers and graziers. . . . .	5	19
Medical practitioners. . . . .	3	4
Accountants . . . . .	3	5
Others . . . . .	20	49
	64	125

## 4. Distribution of Members of Parliament According to Sex

	Senate	House of Representatives
Men. . . . .	55	122
Women . . . . .	9	3
	64	125

*5. Average Age of Members of Parliament*

Senate . . . . .	48 years
House of Representatives . . . . .	47 years

*Note:* The above statistics were based on the composition of the House of Representatives and a projection of the composition of the Senate at 1 July 1981, following the elections of 18 October 1980. Since that time, however, one Member of the House of Representatives has died, three Members have resigned to take up judicial and diplomatic posts, one Senator has died and two Senators have resigned to contest House of Representatives by-elections.





## BARBADOS

**Date of Elections:** 18 June 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the House of Assembly on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Barbados consists of the House of Assembly and the Senate.

The House of Assembly is composed of 27 members\* elected for a maximum of 5 years.

The Senate has 21 members: 12 appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister, 2 on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, and 7 to represent religious, economic or social interests or such other interests as the Governor-General considers appropriate.

### **Electoral System**

Any citizen of Barbados who is at least 18 years old and who has resided in a particular constituency for a minimum of three months is entitled to vote in that same constituency. Also entitled are Commonwealth citizens of the required age who have resided in Barbados for at least three years immediately preceding the qualifying date (as elector). Disqualified from registration as electors are the insane, persons undergoing any sentence of imprisonment and persons under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months.

Electoral registers are revised annually and prior to elections. Voting is not compulsory.

Citizens of Barbados at least 21 years of age who have resided in the country for at least seven years preceding the election are qualified to be elected as members of the House of Assembly. Candidates for appointment to the Senate must have been ordinarily resident in Barbados for the 12 months immediately preceding appointment. Ineligible, for both the House and the Senate, are undischarged bankrupts, the insane, persons owing allegiance to a foreign State, persons under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding six months, persons convicted of a felony or of any other criminal offence involving dishonesty in the preceding ten years, and persons convicted of electoral fraud. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the office of judge, Director of Public Prosecutions, Auditor-General and (for the House of Assembly) minister of religion.

Candidates for the House must be nominated by two electors and make a deposit of B\$250, which is forfeited if the candidate is not elected and does not obtain more than one-sixth of the total votes polled in his constituency. The Electoral Law sets strict limits on the amount of expenses a candidate may incur during his election campaign.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 8.

For election purposes, Barbados is divided into 27 constituencies. One member of the House of Assembly is elected in each by simple majority vote.

House of Assembly seats which become vacant between general elections are filled through by-elections. Vacant Senate seats are filled by appointment made according to how the seat was originally filled.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Parliament was dissolved on 29 May 1981 pursuant to a proclamation issued by Sir Deighton Ward, the island's Governor-General. The 1981 elections were the third since Barbados attained independence from Britain in 1966.

Major contestants for the 27 seats of the newly-enlarged House of Assembly were, as in the past, the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP), led by Prime Minister J.M.G.M. ("Tom") Adams, and the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), headed by Mr. Errol Barrow, a former Prime Minister. Both were regarded as moderate parties. The BLP underlined its recent record in office, during which unemployment declined and per capita income rose, both to a considerable degree.

On polling day, Mr. Adams won a second term of office as his party won the same number of seats (17) as before but had its parliamentary majority reduced because of the intervening expansion of the Assembly.

### Statistics

#### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	167,029
Voters . . . . .	119,566 (71.58%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	1,065
Valid votes . . . . .	118,501

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Barbados Labour Party (BLP) . . .	27	61,883	52.2	17 (=)
Democratic Labour Party (DLP) . .	27	55,845	47.1	10 (+ 3)
Independents . . . . .	6	773	0.7	—
				27*

\* Three seats added since last elections.

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category*

	House of Assembly	Senate
Lawyers . . . . .	13	4
Teachers . . . . .	3	4
Doctors . . . . .	1	1
Businessmen and other professions . . . . .	10	12
	<u>27</u>	<u>21</u>

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

	House of Assembly	Senate
Men . . . . .	26	17
Women . . . . .	1	4
	<u>27</u>	<u>21</u>

4. *Distribution of Members of the House of Assembly  
according to Age Group*

30-39 years . . . . .	5
40-49 years . . . . .	15
50-59 years . . . . .	5
60-69 years . . . . .	2
	<u>27</u>





## **BULGARIA**

**Date of Elections:** 7 June 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Bulgaria, the National Assembly, is composed of 400 Deputies elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Bulgarian citizens at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote unless they are serving a sentence of imprisonment or have been declared insane.

Electoral registers are revised before each election at the level of the municipality by the executive committees of the local people's councils. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors are eligible for the National Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is not deemed incompatible with any other function.

Candidates are generally members of a political party. They can in fact be nominated either by a party, a social or economic organization or directly by the electorate, in which case the support of at least 20% of the voters of the particular constituency is required.

The 400 Deputies are elected in a like number of constituencies by absolute majority vote. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority on the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second or subsequent ballots are held until these requirements are met.

By-elections are held to fill National Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections unless the vacancy occurs within the last six months of the legislature.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

As in the past, candidates for the National Assembly were proposed by the country's two political parties, various social and economic organizations and individual electors in the different constituencies. The Bulgarian Fatherland Front—the mass organization unifying political and social groups, trade unions, the youth movement and individual citizens—in turn nominated one candidate for each one of the 400 constituencies; these included 271 members of the Bulgarian Communist Party, 99 members of the Bulgarian Agrarian

Party and 30 candidates without party affiliation. All were elected on polling day, which was marked by a massive voter turnout. Women members chosen numbered 87.

On 16 June, the new National Assembly met to elect the State Council and the Council of Ministers. President Todor Zhivkov heads the former, while Mr. Gricha Filipov is Chairman of the latter.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	6,526,782
Voters . . . . .	6,524,086 (99.96%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	4,412
Valid votes . . . . .	6,519,674
<i>Votes in favour of the Fatherland Front</i> . . . . .	6,519,674

Political Group	Number of Candidates	% of Votes obtained	Number of Seats
Bulgarian Fatherland Front			
Bulgarian Communist Party . . . . .	271	67.75	271
Bulgarian Agrarian Party . . . . .	99	24.75	99
Non-party . . . . .	30	7.50	30
			400

### 2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

Cadres — engineers, agronomists, doctors, writers, academicians, university professors	295
Workers and farmers . . . . .	83
Others . . . . .	22
	400

### 3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men . . . . .	313
Women . . . . .	87
	400

### 4. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group

18-30 years . . . . .	33
31-60 . . . . .	249
Over 60 . . . . .	118
	400

## CAPE VERDE

**Date of Elections:** 7 December 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament in the first such poll since independence was attained in July 1975\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Cape Verde, the National People's Assembly, comprises 63 members elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Cape Verdean citizens who are at least 18 years of age, resident in the country and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote; certain citizens residing abroad are also granted the suffrage. Disqualified are certain persons recognized to be mentally or physically infirm and those serving a prison sentence for fraud.

Qualified electors at least 21 years old may be candidates for Parliament. Disqualified are citizens who have been naturalized within the previous five years and persons (other than those abroad on official mission or public service) who have not resided in the country for at least six months before the announcement of the election date.

All Assembly candidates belong to the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), the country's sole party. In each constituency, there is one Deputy for every 2500 registered electors, or fraction above 1000, the minimum number of seats to be filled being two. A single list of candidates, bearing as many names as seats to be filled plus three substitute candidates, is presented by an electoral college; to be elected, candidates must obtain the majority of votes cast by the electorate.

Substitute candidates appearing on the same list and also chosen at general elections fill parliamentary seats which fall vacant between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Previous general elections had taken place in June 1975, just prior to independence; all Assembly seats were won by the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), the only legal party in Cape Verde.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections X* (1975-1976), p. 7.



The archipelago's first Constitution was adopted on 5 September 1980\*. It paved the way for the December elections, the date of which was announced on 7 October 1980 by President of the Republic Aristides Pereira.

On polling day, it was announced that the PAICV won 92.48% of the votes cast; approximately 75% of the registered electorate participated in the poll. The Prime Minister is Major Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires.

## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National People's Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	126,028
Voters . . . . .	95,486 (75.7%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	7,177
Valid votes . . . . .	88,309

Political Group	Votes obtained	Number of Seats
African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV) . . . . .	88,309	63

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 10-11.

## CYPRUS

**Date of Elections:** 24 May 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for the 35 members of Parliament representing the country's Greek community following premature dissolution of the House of Representatives. General elections were not normally due until August 1981.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Constitution of Cyprus provides for a system of government in which power is to be shared by the island's Greek and Turkish communities in proportion to their numbers. The 50-seat national House of Representatives accordingly has 70% (35) of its members elected by the Greek community and 30% (15) by the Turkish community. All Deputies have 5-year terms of office.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens have the right to vote in general elections if they are at least 21 years of age and have resided in Cyprus for a minimum of six months prior to the qualifying date (as elector). Disqualified, however, are the insane, persons who have been legally detained or imprisoned during the entire period they have qualified as electors, and persons convicted of electoral fraud.

A permanent Central Electoral Service in the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the compilation and revision of the electoral register; this register is revised and supplemented every three months. Voting is compulsory, unjustified failure to do so resulting in a fine.

Qualified electors who are at least 25 years old on the date of their nomination are eligible for election as Representatives. Ineligible are persons under sentence of imprisonment for a term of five years or more for any offence or for a term of two years or more for any offence involving violence, injury to personal honour, dishonesty or moral turpitude. The office of parliamentarian is incompatible with elective ministerial or municipal offices, membership of the armed or security forces, national or municipal public service and, in the case of a Representative elected by the Turkish community, the post of religious functionary.

A candidate must be supported by at least four registered electors and his nomination must be accompanied by a deposit of 100 Cyprus pounds, which is forfeited if the candidate does not obtain votes equalling at least one-third of the electoral quota.

For the purpose of electing representatives of the Greek Cypriot community, six districts are delineated; each is entitled to a different number of Representatives varying, according to population, from 12 (the district of Nicosia) to two (the district of Kyrenia). All Deputies

are chosen according to a system of proportional representation whereby party lists or individual candidates may be presented. Voters first single out the list of candidates of their choice and then, within the list, mark one name for every four seats to be filled in their district. In districts returning less than four members, only one name may be marked on the ballot paper; where only one list of candidates is put forward, no voting takes place.

Seats are distributed among lists within each district by dividing the total number of votes cast for each list by an electoral quota (obtained by dividing the total number of votes cast in the district by the number of seats to be filled). Individual independent candidates who have obtained at least as many votes as the electoral quota are considered elected. After this operation, the remaining seats are distributed among parties which have gained at least one seat in any constituency pursuant to the first distribution plus at least 8% of all valid votes cast throughout the island or, alternatively, at least 10% of all such valid votes without having gained a seat. Within a list, the choice of candidates declared elected is based on the number of votes cast for each of them and, where the votes are equally divided, the seat is awarded to the candidate whose name appears first on the list.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary seats which fall vacant between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Premature dissolution of the House of Representatives came about after the introduction of a new electoral system in July 1979\*: it was then considered that elections should be held as early as possible.

Seven political parties, represented by 252 candidates, as well as a number of independent candidates vied for the 35 seats at stake (there are 15 other seats set aside for the island's Turkish Cypriot population, but they have boycotted the Parliament since 1963). Major contestants were the ruling centre-right Democratic Party (DIKO) of President of the Republic Spyros Kyprianou (who had succeeded Archbishop Makarios in 1977), the communist Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL), led by Mr. E. Papaioannou, the rightist Democratic Rally of former Speaker G. Clerides, and the socialist Unified Democratic Union of Cyprus (EDEK). The election campaign was vigorously waged, primary issues raised being the lack of progress in the inter-communal (Greek and Turkish) talks about the country's future, economic questions, and a foreign policy stance favouring alignment or non-alignment.

On polling day, voter turnout was high. The final outcome reflected the polarization of opinion in Cyprus between right and left, as the pro-Western Democratic Rally and AKEL each won 12 seats and seemed to have benefited from popular discontent with the performance of the outgoing Government; DIKO came in third with eight seats.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-1980), pp. 10-11.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the House of Representatives*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	308,729
Voters . . . . .	295,602 (95.75%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	4,581
Valid votes . . . . .	291,021

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL)	35	95,364	32.77	12 (+ 3)
Democratic Rally . . . . .	35	92,886	31.92	12 (+ 12)
Democratic Party (DIKO) . . . . .	35	56,749	19.50	8 (— 13)
Unified Democratic Union of Cyprus (EDEK) . . . . .	35	23,772	8.17	3 (— 1)
Others . . . . .	105	21,667	7.44	— (=)
Independents . . . . .	6	583	0.20	— (— 1)
				35

2. *Distribution of Representatives according  
to Professional Category*

Lawyers . . . . .	11
Doctors . . . . .	4
Architects . . . . .	2
Businessmen . . . . .	2
Economists . . . . .	2
Trade unionists . . . . .	2
Officials of farmers' associations . . . . .	2
Others . . . . .	10
	35

3. *Distribution of Representatives  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	34
Women . . . . .	1
	35



4. *Distribution of Representatives  
according to Age Group*

30-40 years . . . . .	7
41-50 . . . . .	9
51-60 . . . . .	8
61-70 . . . . .	9
Over 70 . . . . .	2
	<hr/>
	35

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

**Dates of Elections:** 5 and 6 June 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Czechoslovakia, the Federal Assembly, consists of the Chamber of the People and the Chamber of Nations.

The Chamber of the People is composed of 200 Deputies. The Chamber of Nations has 150 members, of whom 75 are elected in the Czech Socialist Republic and 75 in the Slovak Socialist Republic.

All Federal Assembly members have 5-year terms of office.

### **Electoral System**

All Czechoslovak citizens who are at least 18 years old on election day are entitled to vote unless they are insane, imprisoned or in custody.

Electoral registers are revised before elections. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors who have attained the age of 21 on election day may be candidates for the Federal Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the office of President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and that of member of the Constitutional Court.

All candidates must appear on a single list compiled by the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The country is divided into 200 constituencies (Bohemia-Moravia-Silesia: 136; Slovakia: 64) for purposes of elections to the Chamber of the People, and into 150 for elections to the Chamber of Nations. Within these single-member districts, all Deputies are elected by absolute majority vote. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority on the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second ballot is held within 15 days. A simple majority vote at the second ballot is sufficient for a candidate to be elected.

By-elections are held to fill the seat of any Deputy which becomes vacant between general elections. This is not mandatory in the last year of the Assembly's term.

## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The Federal Assembly elections coincided with those for the National Councils (assemblies) of the two Republics and the councils of regions, districts and municipalities. Candidates for all these representative bodies were nominated by the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, a political organization embracing the country's Communist Party, other political parties and mass organizations.

Prior to polling day, a series of speeches relating to various aspects of the programme of the National Front in the spheres of economic and social development as well as international relations were made by the President of the Republic, Mr. G. Husak, the Prime Minister, Mr. L. Strougal, and other representatives of the Government.

All Front candidates were elected as 99.51% of the registered electorate went to the polls. Mr. Strougal continued as head of the Government.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Federal Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	10,789,574
Voters . . . . .	10,736,312 (99.51%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	6,107 (Chamber of the People)
	6,109 (Chamber of Nations)
Valid votes . . . . .	10,730,205 (Chamber of the People)
	10,730,203 (Chamber of Nations)
<i>Votes in favour of the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic . . . . .</i>	10,725,609 (Chamber of the People)
	10,725,895 (Chamber of Nations)

Political Group	Number of Seats in the Federal Assembly
National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic	
– Communist Party of Czechoslovakia . . . . .	240
– Czechoslovak People's Party . . . . .	18
– Czechoslovak Socialist Party . . . . .	18
– Slovak Reconstruction Party . . . . .	4
– Slovak Freedom Party . . . . .	4
– Non-party . . . . .	66
	<hr/> 350

2. *Distribution of Deputies according  
to Professional Category*

Civil and party workers. . . . .	113
Workers . . . . .	92
Intelligentsia . . . . .	63
Agricultural workers . . . . .	51
Others . . . . .	31
	<hr/>
	350

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	251
Women . . . . .	99
	<hr/>
	350

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

35 years and under. . . . .	60
36-50 . . . . .	127
51-60 . . . . .	133
Over 60 . . . . .	30
	<hr/>
	350





## DOMINICA

**Date of Elections:** 21 July 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for 21 Representatives of the House of Assembly in the first general elections since Dominica became fully independent in November 1978\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Dominica, the House of Assembly, is composed of elected Representatives and 9 Senators. The latter are appointed by the President of the Republic—5 on the advice of the Prime Minister and 4 on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition. The normal duration of the legislature is 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen of the British Commonwealth who is at least 18 years of age and possesses such qualifications relating to residence or domicile as Parliament may prescribe is entitled to vote.

Citizens of Dominica aged 21 years or over who have resided in the country for 12 months immediately before the date of nomination, or are domiciled and resident in Dominica at that date, and who are able to speak and read the English language with sufficient proficiency to enable them to take an active part in House proceedings are qualified to be elected as Representatives. This last condition also applies to Senate candidates, who must moreover be Commonwealth citizens, 21 years old, and domiciled and resident in Dominica at the time of their appointment or nomination for election.

Disqualified for election or appointment as a Representative or Senator are persons under allegiance to a foreign State, ministers of religion, undischarged bankrupts, the insane, certain government contractors, and persons under sentence of death or serving a sentence of imprisonment exceeding 12 months.

Representatives are elected in 21 single-member constituencies.

By-elections are held to fill vacant Representatives' seats. Vacant Senate seats are filled either by appointment or election, as the case may be. All these actions are to be undertaken within three months of the occurrence of the vacancy.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Following independence in 1978, political turmoil between the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) Government and opposition groups united in a Committee for National Salvation

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), pp. 11-12.

(CNS) plagued the country. An interim CNS Government was formed in June 1978 subsequent to a 25-day general strike.

Major parties contesting the House seats were the conservative Dominica Freedom Party (DFP), led by Miss Mary Eugenia Charles; the DLP, headed by former Prime Minister Patrick John; and the newly-formed Democratic Labour Party of Dominica (DLPD), led by Mr. Oliver Seraphine, the former CNS Prime Minister. On polling day, the DFP gained a convincing victory, winning all but four of the Representatives' seats. Observers ascribed the poor showing of the other parties to the political scandals of which they had been victims. Miss Charles became the Caribbean's first woman Prime Minister.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Assembly\*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	38,452
Voters . . . . .	30,729 (79.9%)

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Seats
Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) . . . . .	16,083	52.34	17
Democratic Labour Party of Dominica (DLDP)	5,944	19.34	2
Democratic Labour Party (DLP) . . . . .	5,195	16.91	—
Independents . . . . .	1,043	3.39	2
			21

\* Excluding Senators.

## FRANCE

**Dates of Elections:** 28 September 1980 (Senate)  
14 and 21 June 1981 (National Assembly)

### Purpose of Elections

#### *Senate*

Elections were held to renew one-third (98) of the Senate seats, of which 95 in metropolitan France, one in the overseas department of French Guiana, and 2 in the overseas territories of French Polynesia and the Wallis and Futuna Islands. Two other Senators, representing French citizens living abroad, had previously been designated on 24 June by the *Conseil supérieur des Français de l'étranger*.

#### *National Assembly*

Elections were held for all the members of the National Assembly following premature dissolution of this body on 22 May 1981. Previous general elections had been held in March 1978.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of France is made up of the Senate and the National Assembly.

#### *Senate*

The Senate comprises 305 members\*. They are indirectly elected for 9 years, one-third of the seats being renewed every 3 years.

Of this total, 286 Senators represent the 95 departments of metropolitan France, being elected in each case by an electoral college composed of the members of the National Assembly, general councillors, and delegates of the municipal councils; 8 Senators, elected likewise, represent the five overseas departments; 5 Senators, elected likewise, represent the five overseas territories; and 6 Senators, co-opted by the Senate on submission of candidatures by the *Conseil supérieur des Français de l'étranger*, represent French citizens living outside France\*\*.

#### *National Assembly*

The National Assembly has 491 members (474 for metropolitan France, 11 for overseas departments and 6 for overseas territories). All Deputies are directly elected for 5 years.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 12.

\*\* The number of seats is, theoretically, still 305 but the actual total is 304 since the seat of the former French territory of the Afars and the Issas remained unfilled after the territory became independent as Djibouti.



## Electoral System

All French citizens who are at least 18 years of age, in full possession of their civil rights and registered as electors, are entitled to vote for Deputies (the Senate electorate is mentioned above). Disqualified are persons convicted of criminal or other offences, undischarged bankrupts and the mentally deficient.

As regards elections for the National Assembly, electoral lists are compiled on the municipal level and revised annually. Voting for Deputies, unlike for Senators, is not compulsory. Special registration and proxy voting procedures apply to citizens living abroad, career military personnel and persons having itinerant professions.

Qualified electors who are at least 23 years of age and who have satisfied their military obligation are eligible for election to the National Assembly (the age requirement is 35 for the Senate). Naturalized citizens and women who have acquired French nationality by marriage are only eligible upon expiry of a period of 10 years from the date of their becoming French. Ineligible are persons under guardianship and those deprived of their eligibility by court decree.

Career members of the armed forces, the Economic and Social Council and Department Committees; judges; holders of certain functions bestowed by foreign States and officials of international organizations; executives of State enterprises, State-assisted companies, savings and credit organizations, companies holding government contracts and real-estate companies and members of the Constitutional Council are all deemed to hold offices or positions which are incompatible with the parliamentary mandate.

Candidatures to the National Assembly must be submitted at least 21 days prior to election day, along with a deposit of 1,000 francs, reimbursable if the candidate obtains at least 5% of the votes cast in either of the two ballots.

Depending on the constituency, candidates for the Senate may run either individually or as part of a list of candidates. These candidatures must be accompanied by a deposit of 200 francs. This deposit is reimbursable to an individual candidate if he obtains 10% of the votes cast in the particular constituency in either of the two ballots, or to the several candidates comprising a list if they together obtain 5% of the votes cast.

Elections for Deputies are held in 491 single-member constituencies, according to a majority system in two ballots. A candidate is elected in the first ballot if he obtains an absolute majority of the valid votes cast, provided this amount is equal to a quarter of the number of registered voters in the particular constituency. In order to be eligible for the second ballot, candidates must have obtained a number of votes equal to at least 12.5% of the total number of registered voters. However, if only one candidate fulfills this condition, then the person who polls the second largest number of votes in the first ballot may also participate in the second at which, to be elected, a simple plurality suffices.

In departments represented by four Senators or less, the latter are elected on a majority basis in two ballots, as in the case of Deputies. Departments entitled to five or more Senators elect the latter according to the proportional representation system of highest average, without preferential vote or vote-splitting; within each list, seats are allotted to candidates on the basis of their order of appearance within that list. In the overseas territories, Senators are elected by absolute majority.

In absolute-majority departments, substitutes elected at the same time as titular members of Parliament fill parliamentary vacancies which arise when these titular members accept government office or appointment to the Constitutional Council, become members of a government mission lasting more than six months, or have died; in proportional representation departments, "next-in-line" candidates of the same party list fill any vacancy. When vacancies arise for any other reason—such as resignation—by-elections are resorted to within three months, except in the last year prior to the end of the legislature's term.

## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

### Senate

Participants in the Senate poll numbered 41,720 members of 41 departmental electoral colleges. Contested by 392 candidates, the elections resulted in the then opposition Socialist Party (PS) consolidating its position as the largest single group in the Senate; the *Rassemblement pour la République* (RPR) also made progress. The parties participating in the Government retained an overall Senate majority. A total of 51 incumbent Senators were returned.

On 2 October, Mr. Alain Poher (Centrist Union) was re-elected President of the Senate.

### National Assembly

Elected President of the Republic on 10 May 1981, the leader of the Socialist Party (PS), Mr. François Mitterrand, formed a Government and then called for the dissolution of the National Assembly on 22 May 1981, general legislative elections being set for the following month. The moderately-leftist PS was in the minority in the outgoing legislature, ranking third behind the centre-right *Rassemblement pour la République* (RPR) and *Union pour la démocratie française* (UDF).

The considerable change that came about with the presidential elections had repercussions on the election campaign (which opened on 1 June), its conduct and results. The main issue was whether the new majority emerging from the legislative elections would be consistent with the majority in the presidential elections or whether, on the contrary, there would be opposition between the National Assembly and the President of the Republic. The question of the Communist Party's possible participation in the Government was also an important issue during the campaign.

Voter turnout was lower in the legislative elections than in the presidential ones. Rates of abstention were, respectively, 18.90% and 14.14% on 26 April and 10 May, and 29.6% and 25.5% on 14 and 21 June 1981.

The number of candidates in the first round of voting totalled 2,719, of whom 2,648 (including 353 women) were in metropolitan France and 71 in the overseas constituencies.

The 335 constituencies in which a second round proved necessary were contested by 684 candidates.

The results of the first round (which took place on 14 June) revealed a strong showing by candidates of the Socialist Party at the expense of candidates of all other parties, including those of the outgoing majority and of the Communist Party. In the second round (held on 21 June), the Socialist Party's overall success was considerable since the number of its elected

members exceeded the absolute majority of the National Assembly. With the addition of the other left-wing candidates elected, the new majority has 334 of the 491 seats.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Pierre Mauroy, was confirmed in his post on 22 June 1981. His Cabinet includes four Communist Party members, all the other Ministers being Socialist

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Senate

Number of registered electors . . . . . 41,720

Political Party	Number of Seats won in 1980 Elections
Socialist Party (PS) . . . . .	30
<i>Rassemblement pour la République</i> (RPR) . . .	12
Republican Party (PR) . . . . .	12
<i>Centre des démocrates sociaux</i> (CDS) . . . . .	11
Radical Party . . . . .	8
<i>Union pour la démocratie française</i> (UDF) . . .	6
<i>Centre national des indépendants et paysans</i> (CNIP) . . . . .	6
Left Radicals . . . . .	5
Various "majority" parties . . . . .	5
Various opposition parties . . . . .	2
Communist Party . . . . .	1
	98

In light of the above results, the numerical strength of the various Senate groups including attached and associated members, became the following:

Political Group	Total Number of Seats
Socialist Party. . . . .	69
Centrist Union* . . . . .	67
Union of Republicans and Independents. . . .	52
<i>Rassemblement pour la République</i> . . . . .	41
Democratic Left** . . . . .	39
Communist Party . . . . .	23
Unattached ( <i>non-inscrits</i> ) . . . . .	13
	304

\* Comprising the *Centre des démocrates sociaux* (CDS), the *Union pour la démocratie française* (UDF) and other centrist Senators.

\*\* Including 13 Left Radicals.



## 2. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly

		First Round		Second Round			
Number of registered electors . . .		36,257,433		25,757,374			
Voters . . . . .		25,508,800 (70.35%)		19,177,706 (74.45%)			
Blank or void ballot papers . . .		367,610		512,678			
Valid votes . . . . .		25,141,190		18,665,028			

Political Group	Votes obtained in First Round	%	Number of Seats won in		Total Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
			First Round	Second Round			
Socialist Party (PS) (including affiliated members) . . . . .	9,432,362	37.52	47	222	269	107	104
Left Radicals (MRG) . . . . .			1	13	14	10	10
Various Left . . . . .	789,372	3.14	1	6	7	1	2
Communist Party (PC) . . . . .	4,065,540	16.17	7	37	44	86	86
Rassemblement pour la République (RPR) . . . . .	5,231,269	20.81	50	35	85	153	150
Union pour la démocratie française (UDF). . . . .	4,827,437	19.20	43	18	61	116	130
Various Right. . . . .	795,210	3.16	7	4	11	18	9
					491	491	491



3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category*

	Senate	National Assembly
Agricultural professions. . . . .	48	12
Commercial and industrial professions . . . . .	41	11
— Business executives. . . . .		9
— Tradesmen . . . . .		2
Salaried employees. . . . .	58	86
— Engineers. . . . .		16
— Various professional staff . . . . .		46
— Salaried clerks. . . . .		4
— Manual workers . . . . .		20
Medical Professions . . . . .	31	46
— Doctors, surgeons . . . . .		32
— Pharmacists. . . . .		2
— Dentists . . . . .		1
— Veterinarians . . . . .		6
— Other social professions. . . . .		5
Legal and liberal professions . . . . .	50	59
— Judges . . . . .		2
— Lawyers . . . . .		23
— Ministry officials . . . . .		1
— Other liberal professions . . . . .		19
— Journalists, artists . . . . .		14
Educators . . . . .	40	166
Civil servants and public officials (active or retired). . . . .	30	92
Without profession and others . . . . .	6	19
	304	491

#### 4. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex

	Senate	National Assembly
Men. . . . .	297	465
Women . . . . .	7	26
	<u>304</u>	<u>491</u>

#### 5. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Age Group

	Senate	National Assembly
27-30 years . . . . .	—	8
31-35 . . . . .	—	30
35/36-40 . . . . .	8	72
41-45 . . . . .	44	85
46-50 . . . . .		69
51-55 . . . . .	114	64
56-60 . . . . .		77
61-65 . . . . .	100	45
66-70 . . . . .		29
Over 70 . . . . .	38	12
	<u>304</u>	<u>491</u>



## GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

**Date of Elections:** 14 June 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of the German Democratic Republic, the *Volkskammer* (People's Chamber), is composed of 500 members directly elected for 5 years by universal suffrage.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen of the GDR who is at least 18 years old on election day and resides in the country has the right to vote and to be elected to the *Volkskammer*, unless he is under tutelage or has been deprived of his civil rights by court decision.

Electoral lists are established at least 21 days prior to the polling day and are publicly displayed for two weeks. Voting is not compulsory.

Candidates for the *Volkskammer* are nominated 30 to 40 days before election day by parties and mass organizations, which may present their proposals in a joint list of candidates of the National Front of the GDR. Voters may propose changes in the list(s) up to five days before the elections.

The 500 Deputies are elected in 72 constituencies, each choosing from four to eight members, depending on its population. To be elected, a candidate must receive more than half of the valid votes cast in his constituency. If, within a constituency, an insufficient number of candidates obtain the required absolute majority needed to fill all the seats, a second ballot is held within 90 days. If the number of candidates winning this majority exceeds the number of seats in the respective constituency, the order of the candidates on the election list is decisive. Elected candidates who, on this basis, receive no seat become successor candidates who fill vacancies in the *Volkskammer* which occur during a legislative period.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The 1981 elections for the *Volkskammer* coincided with those for the country's 14 regional assemblies and for the Municipal Assembly of East Berlin. The general elections were the first since all Deputies, including those from Berlin, were elected on the same basis.

Political parties and mass organizations—all belonging to the National Front of the



German Democratic Republic—which participated in the poll were headed by the Socialist Unity Party (SED), formed in 1946. National Front candidates totalled 679. On polling day, 500 of these were elected, the remaining 179 becoming substitute Deputies.

At its first meeting on 25 June, the *Volkskammer* re-elected Mr. Willi Stoph as Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Since 1976, the Chairman of the Council of State (Head of State) has been Mr. Erich Honecker.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Volkskammer

Number of registered electors . . . . .	12,352,263
Voters . . . . .	12,255,006 (99.2%)
Void ballot papers . . . . .	2,878
Valid votes . . . . .	12,252,128
<i>Votes in favour of the National Front of the GDR</i>	12,235,515

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
National Front of the German Democratic Republic . . . . .	679	500

### 2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

Workers . . . . .	236
Intellectuals . . . . .	115
Salaried employees . . . . .	89
Members of agricultural productive co- operatives, individual farmers, gardeners. . .	52
Others . . . . .	8
	<hr/> 500

### 3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men . . . . .	338
Women . . . . .	162
	<hr/> 500

### 4. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group

18-20 years . . . . .	12
21-25 . . . . .	34
26-30 . . . . .	19
31-40 . . . . .	63
41-50 . . . . .	128
51-65 . . . . .	205
Over 65 . . . . .	39
	<hr/> 500

## GERMANY (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF)

**Date of Elections:** 5 October 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the *Bundestag* on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany consists of the *Bundestag* (Federal Assembly) and the *Bundesrat* (Federal Council).

Generally, the *Bundestag* is composed of 518 Deputies, of whom 496 are elected by universal suffrage and 22 by the House of Representatives of West Berlin. In the 1980 elections, 519 Deputies were elected (see below).

The term of the *Bundestag* is 4 years.

The *Bundesrat* consists of delegates from each of the 11 *Länder* (States) constituting the Federation. At the present time, the total number of delegates is 45, including 4 delegates from West Berlin. The delegates must be members of the Government of the *Land* (State) that delegates them; it is the Government of the *Land* that appoints and recalls its delegates. The number of delegates from each *Land* depends on the size of its population: each *Land* having more than 6 million inhabitants may appoint 5 delegates; each *Land* having between 2 and 6 million inhabitants may appoint 4 delegates; each other *Land* may appoint 3 delegates. The votes of each *Land* may be cast only as a block vote.

### **Electoral System**

Any citizen is entitled to vote provided he has attained the age of 18 years and has resided for at least three months in the country (although civil servants, members of the armed forces, employees and workmen in public service who are abroad pursuant to orders, as well as members of their households, also have the right to vote). Persons under guardianship and the insane may not vote.

Electoral registers are continually kept up to date and open for public inspection between the 20th and the 15th day preceding the elections. Voting is not compulsory. Any person entitled to vote but unable to do so at his place of residence may obtain a voter's certificate and may vote elsewhere or by correspondence.

Any qualified elector who has attained 18 years of age and has been a citizen for at least one year is eligible to become a Deputy.

Mutually incompatible are ministerial posts in a Federal State and membership of the *Bundestag*. A seat in Parliament, however, is not incompatible with membership of the

Federal Government. Rights and duties of civil servants are suspended during their membership of the *Bundestag*.

Candidatures to the *Bundestag* may be for constituencies or for *Land* party lists.

Candidatures for constituencies may be presented by a political party or by individuals. In the latter case, or where the political party does not have at least five seats in the *Bundestag* or in the Parliament of a given *Land*, the candidature must be supported by at least 200 persons having the right to vote in the constituency concerned. For each constituency, each party may present only one candidate. Such candidate must have been chosen in a secret ballot in which members of the party who have the right to vote in the constituency, or their elected representatives, may participate.

A party which has not been continuously represented in the *Bundestag* or in the Parliament of a given *Land* by at least five members nominated by the party itself may only submit a nomination as a party if it has announced its intended participation in the election to the Federal Returning Officer not later than the 47th day before the election, and has been recognized as a party by the Federal Electoral Committee.

Candidatures for *Land* party lists may be presented by any political party, recognized as above. Where the party does not have at least five seats in the *Bundestag* or in the Parliament of a given *Land*, the list must be supported by the signature of one per thousand (but not more than 2,000) eligible voters in the *Land* concerned. The list must indicate the names of the candidates in order of preference. In each *Land*, each party may present only one list.

Each voter has two votes: one (the "first vote") for an individual candidate in one of the 248 constituencies, and one (the "second vote") for a party list established, for each of the 10 *Länder*, by each political party. Half of the 496 Deputies are elected from among the individual candidates (one in each of the 248 constituencies), and half of them on the basis of the party lists.

Among candidates from a given constituency, the candidate having received the highest number among the "first" votes becomes Deputy.

In each *Land*, every party is entitled to the number of seats that corresponds to its share in the "second" votes. The computation is made according to the d'Hondt system. The number of Deputies belonging to the party who were elected in the vote in the individual constituencies is subtracted from the total of the seats available to the party. The remaining number of seats go to the candidates indicated on the party list, in the order in which they were indicated. It is possible for a party, as happened in the 1980 elections in one case, to have what are known as "surplus" seats when it wins more seats in the constituencies on the "first" vote than it is entitled to according to the result of the "second" vote calculation.

The party list of any party that has obtained less than 5% of all the "second" votes in the country is disregarded unless at least three candidates of that party have been elected in constituencies.

When the seat of a Deputy who was a member of a party which presented a party list becomes vacant, it is filled by the next candidate on that list, even when the Deputy had been elected in an individual constituency. If the seat of a Deputy who was not the member of a political party which presented a party list and who had been elected in an individual constituency becomes vacant, it is filled through a special election in that constituency. Such election must take place within 60 days from the date the seat becomes vacant.



### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

A total of 12 political parties and 2,325 candidates contested the party list ("second vote") seats, while 1,525 candidates were in competition for the 248 constituency ("first vote") seats. There were numerous women candidates; 889 of all candidates were nominated in a constituency and at the same time on a party list.

Principal challengers to the ruling coalition of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP)—in power since 1969—were, once again, the united forces of the Christian Democratic Party (CDU) and the Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU).

Prior to the elections, the four above-mentioned parties pledged themselves, in 1980, to conduct a fair and non-polemical campaign and to set up a joint arbitration body to monitor the observance of this agreement. The campaign in fact developed largely into a confrontation between Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Mr. Franz Josef Strauss, leader of CSU, who had emerged as the CDU/CSU candidate for Chancellor.

On polling day, both the SPD and the FDP picked up seats, the latter to an unforeseen degree; the CDU/CSU, on the other hand, lost 17 seats. The SPD and FDP therefore renewed their coalition and re-elected Mr. Schmidt as Chancellor. In keeping with the coalition agreement, the FDP continued to hold four of the Cabinet posts.



Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Bundestag

Number of registered electors . . . . .	43,231,741
Voters . . . . .	38,292,176 (88.57%)
Blank or void "first votes" . . . . .	485,645
Valid "first votes" . . . . .	37,806,531
Blank or void "second votes" . . . . .	353,195
Valid "second votes" . . . . .	37,938,981

Political Group	Number of Candidates	"Second Votes" obtained	%	Total Number of Seats (including Berlin)	Total Number of Seats won at Previous Elections (including Berlin)
Social Democratic Party (SPD)	707	16,260,677	42.9	228	224
Christian Democratic Union (CDU) . . . . .	630	12,989,200	34.2	185	201
Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU). . . . .	104	3,908,459	10.3	52	53
Free Democratic Party (FDP) .	574	4,030,999	10.6	54	40
Green Party. . . . .	395	569,589	1.5	—	—
German Communist Party (DKP) . . . . .	628	71,600	0.2	—	—
National Democratic Party (NPD) . . . . .	218	68,096	0.2	—	—
Citizens' Party. . . . .	30	11,256	—	—	—
Popular Front (V) . . . . .	145	9,319	—	—	—
Communist League of West Germany (KBW). . . . .	257	8,174	—	—	—
European Workers' Party (EAP)	139	7,666	—	—	—
Christian Bavarian People's Party (CBV). . . . .	7	3,946	—	—	—
				519*	518

\* One "surplus" seat was allotted in the 1980 elections.

2. *Distribution of Members of the Bundestag  
according to Professional Category*

Civil servants . . . . .	187
Employees in industry and commerce . . . . .	84
Liberal professions. . . . .	84
Employees of political and social organizations	61
Self-employed . . . . .	46
Workers . . . . .	30
Others . . . . .	27
	<hr/>
	519

3. *Distribution of Members of the Bundestag  
according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	475
Women . . . . .	44
	<hr/>
	519

4. *Average Age of Members of the Bundestag: 46.9 years*



## GUYANA

**Date of Elections:** 15 December 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament. General elections had previously taken place in July 1973, the sitting of the National Assembly having been extended twice (in 1978 and 1979) so as to permit the Constituent Assembly to complete the preparation of a new Constitution\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

Under the 1980 Constitution, the unicameral Parliament of Guyana, the National Assembly, comprises 53 members elected by universal suffrage for 5 years, 10 members elected by 10 Regional Democratic Councils and 2 members elected by the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs. The Speaker, Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries who are not elected Assembly members are in addition deemed parliamentarians, although they have no voting rights; these currently number 17 altogether. Total membership thus now stands at 82.

### **Electoral System**

All Guyanese citizens who are at least 18 years of age as well as Commonwealth citizens who are domiciled and resident in Guyana and have been so resident for a period of at least one year are entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane and certain persons who have been convicted of election-connected offences.

There exists a National Register of electors which is revised prior to each election. Voting is not compulsory.

Guyanese citizens of at least 18 years of age who are able to speak and read the English language with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable them to take an active part in the proceedings of the Assembly qualify for election as National Assembly members. Disqualified are persons owing allegiance to a foreign State, those under sentence of death or serving a sentence of imprisonment exceeding six months, the insane, certain public officials, members of the armed and police forces, and certain government contractors.

A candidate for election by universal suffrage must be a member of a political party. A party list of candidates must be supported by not less than 200 and not more than 220 electors.

General elections are conducted according to a party-list proportional representation system, each list bearing from 53 to 65 names. Each elector has one vote and may cast it for

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 13-14.



any of the lists. All valid votes cast are divided by 53 for the purpose of computing the electoral quota. Each party's total number of votes is divided by this quota, the whole number resulting therefrom representing the number of Assembly seats allotted to it.

If they fall vacant between general elections, parliamentary seats of directly elected members are filled by another candidate of the same party list who had not previously been declared elected. Vacancies of indirectly elected members are filled through by-elections conducted by the body concerned.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The new Constitution prepared by the Constituent Assembly was promulgated on 6 October 1980\* and, on 25 October, elections were announced for December.

In June 1980, the leader of one of the opposition political parties, the Working People's Alliance (WPA), was assassinated and internal opposition to the People's National Congress (PNC) Government increased. Most opposition groups, with the notable exception of the leftist People's Progressive Party (PPP), called for a boycott of the elections. Polling day procedure was observed by an international team. The PNC, led by President of the Republic Forbes Burnham (formerly Prime Minister), won four-fifths of the Assembly seats.

On 30 January 1981, the newly-elected Parliament held its first sitting.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	493,550
Voters . . . . .	406,265 (82.31%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	3,251
Valid votes . . . . .	403,014

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
People's National Congress (PNC) . . . . .	312,988	77	41
People's Progressive Party (PPP) . . . . .	78,414	19	10
United Force . . . . .	11,612	3	2
			53**

\*\* Figures apply only to members elected by universal suffrage.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 13-14.

*2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according  
to Professional Category*

Social workers . . . . .	19
Teachers . . . . .	12
Lawyers . . . . .	8
Farmers . . . . .	8
Journalists . . . . .	4
Businessmen . . . . .	4
Technicians . . . . .	4
Doctors . . . . .	4
Economists . . . . .	3
Clergy . . . . .	3
Sports and culture . . . . .	3
Others . . . . .	10
	<hr/>
	82

*3. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	64
Women . . . . .	18
	<hr/>
	82

*4. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Age Group*

21-30 years . . . . .	7
30-40 . . . . .	23
40-50 . . . . .	32
50-60 . . . . .	17
Over 60 . . . . .	3
	<hr/>
	82



## IRELAND

**Date of Elections:** 11 June 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the House of Representatives, which was prematurely dissolved on 21 May 1981. Normal expiry of the House's term was not due until May 1982.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Ireland, the *Oireachtas*, is composed of the House of Representatives (*Dáil Eireann*) and the Senate (*Seanad Eireann*).

The House of Representatives has 166 members\* elected for a maximum of 5 years.

The Senate is composed of 60 members, of whom:

- a) 11 are nominated by the *Taoiseach* (Prime Minister);
- b) 3 are elected by the National University of Ireland\*;
- c) 3 are elected by the University of Dublin\*;
- d) 43 are elected from five panels of candidates, consisting of persons having knowledge of and practical experience in, respectively, culture and education, agriculture, labour, industry and commerce, public administration and social services.

Not more than 11 and not less than 5 members of the Senate are elected from any one panel.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen who is not disqualified by law and who has reached the age of 18 has the right to vote in elections to the *Dáil* in the constituency in which he ordinarily resides.

Registers of electors are revised annually at the county or county borough level. Voting is not compulsory. Members of the armed and police forces are authorized to vote by post.

As regards elections for the Senate, the following persons may vote:

- a) For the 3 representatives of the National University of Ireland, every citizen over 18 years of age who has received a degree from the University;
- b) For the 3 representatives of the University of Dublin, every citizen over 18 years of age who has received either a degree or a foundation scholarship from the University or, if a woman, has obtained a non-foundation scholarship;
- c) For the 43 other Senators, members of the new *Dáil*, the outgoing Senate and every council of a county or county borough.

Electoral rolls for Senate elections are revised before each election.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-1980), p. 17.



Citizens who fulfil the conditions required of electors to the *Dáil* are entitled to stand for election to this House, with the exception of the insane, undischarged bankrupts, persons undergoing imprisonment with hard labour for at least six months or penal servitude for an term imposed by a court of competent jurisdiction, and persons convicted of corrupt electoral practices. Members of the armed and police forces, civil servants (unless excepted the President of the Republic, the Comptroller and Auditor General and all judges are excluded from membership while holding these posts.

For election to the *Dáil*, a person may nominate himself or may, with his consent, be nominated by another person (who is registered as a *Dáil* elector in the same constituency as proposer. Nominations must be made within nine days after the issue of the writ for election and be accompanied by a deposit of £100, which is reimbursed if the candidate is elected or gains at least one-third of the electoral quota.

Candidates for the Senate must be eligible to become members of the *Dáil* and, in addition:

- (a) Be nominated by 10 registered electors of the University concerned, if they are standing for a University seat;
- (b) Be nominated by either 4 members of Parliament or a registered nominating body, if they are standing as panel members.

Members of the *Dáil* are elected in a ratio of 3, 4 or 5 to each of the 41 electoral constituencies, by proportional representation under the single transferable vote system.

According to this system, each voter receives a ballot-paper containing the names of all the candidates in his constituency. He votes for one of these by writing the figure 1 opposite the name of his choice; he is then at liberty to indicate an order of preference for the other candidates by adding the figures 2, 3, 4, etc., against their names.

At the opening of the count, the ballot papers are sorted according to the first preference recorded. The total number of valid papers is then computed, and from that figure the electoral quota is calculated through division by the number of seats to be filled, plus one. Candidates who obtain a number of first preferences equal to, or greater than, this quota on the first count are immediately declared elected. If, however, no candidate has reached the quota, the candidate who received the lowest number of votes is eliminated and his votes are transferred to the candidate for whom a second preference is recorded. If a candidate receives more than the quota required for election, his remaining votes are transferred to the remaining candidates in accordance with the subsequent preferences expressed by the electors. When the number of remaining candidates neither elected nor eliminated equals the number of vacancies to be filled, those candidates are declared elected, although they may not have reached the quota.

Voting for the Senate, which is by secret postal ballot, is also conducted according to the single transferable vote system.

The Speaker is automatically deemed to have been re-elected to the *Dáil* without having to go through the electoral process\*.

Vacancies which occur between general elections are filled through by-elections, except that the Prime Minister nominates a person to fill a vacant seat formerly held by a nominated Senator.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 15.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

On 21 May 1981, Prime Minister Charles Haughey asked for dissolution of the *Dáil* by the President of the Republic. In announcing the forthcoming election, the Prime Minister said that the Government needed a clear mandate to pursue its efforts to achieve a political solution to the problem of Northern Ireland and to pursue effectively its social and economic policies with the full support of the electorate.

The three-week election campaign was dominated by debate over the social and economic problems (inflation, unemployment) as well as by the events in Northern Ireland. A total of 402 candidates (including nine candidates who were imprisoned in the Maze prison of Northern Ireland, four of whom were hunger strikers) were in the running for the newly-enlarged *Dáil*'s 166 seats, principal contenders being, once again, the country's two large centre-right parties—the ruling *Fianna Fail* and *Fine Gael*—and the Labour Party. These three groups were led, respectively, by Prime Minister Haughey (in power since December 1979), Mr. Garret FitzGerald and Mr. Frank Clusky.

Polling day was marked by a high turnout. *Fine Gael* gained 22 additional *Dáil* seats but still trailed *Fianna Fail* which, though remaining the largest single party, lost its absolute parliamentary majority; this situation heightened the importance of the 15 Labour and independent members' political orientation with regard to the formation of a coalition.

On 30 June, the *Dáil* convened and elected Mr. FitzGerald Prime Minister, Mr. Haughey being narrowly defeated. Mr. FitzGerald formed a minority coalition Government, having obtained the support of the Labour Party and one independent parliamentarian.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Dáil Eireann

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,275,450
Voters . . . . .	1,734,379 (76.22%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	16,168
Valid votes . . . . .	1,718,211

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
<i>Fianna Fail</i> . . . . .	138	777,616	45.26	78 (− 6)
<i>Fine Gael</i> . . . . .	126	626,376	36.46	65 (+ 22)
Labour Party . . . . .	60	169,990	9.89	15 (− 2)
<i>Sinn Fein</i> . . . . .	15	29,561	1.72	1 (+ 1)
Socialist Labour Party . . . . .	7	7,107	0.41	1 (+ 1)
Independents . . . . .	52	106,632	6.21	6 (+ 2)
				166*

\* 18 seats added since last elections.

2. Distribution of Members of the Dáil according to Sex

Men . . . . .	156
Women . . . . .	10
	<hr/>
	166

## ISRAEL

**Date of Elections:** 30 June 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following premature dissolution of this body. Previous general elections had taken place in May 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Israel, the *Knesset*, consists of 120 members elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

Every Israeli national at least 18 years of age is entitled to vote. Although no persons are expressly disqualified from voting, certain cannot do so because they are not provided with polling facilities; these include prisoners or persons abroad who are not seamen.

The electoral register is drawn up at the national level and revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

Every qualified voter at least 21 years of age may be a candidate for the *Knesset* unless he has been sentenced to imprisonment of five or more years for violation of national security, where five years have not elapsed since the prison term was completed. The following people are also barred from being candidates: the President of the State; the State Comptroller; salaried rabbis; judges; and senior civil servants and army officers of a certain rank, unless they cease to hold their posts 100 days before election day; where a more junior civil servant or army officer becomes a candidate his service is suspended until election day and, if he becomes a member of the *Knesset*, so long as he is a parliamentarian.

A list of candidates may be presented either by 1,500 members of the electorate or by a party group represented in the outgoing *Knesset*. In the former case the representative of the list must deposit IS\$20,000, which is returned if the list obtains at least 1% of the total valid votes cast in the country.

Deputies of the *Knesset* represent the entire nation, which forms one constituency. Voting is for lists of candidates, with proportional distribution of seats effected according to the D'Hondt method of highest average between all lists having obtained at least 1% of the valid votes cast. Within each list, the seats won are allotted to the candidates according to their order of appearance on the list. The "next-in-line" candidate of the list concerned fills a vacancy which arises in the *Knesset* between general elections.



### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The June election date was set by the *Knesset* on 10 February 1981; the parliamentary term would normally have run until November 1981.

Early dissolution and a fresh mandate from the people had in fact been sought by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, whose right-wing *Likud* coalition had ruled Israel since 1977 but had met with increasing political difficulties and diminishing support in Parliament.

The election campaign was marked by sporadic violence; debate focused largely on economic issues and foreign affairs, particularly the policies to adopt as regards Israeli settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip, as well as towards the Arab world as a whole. The opposition Labour Party, led by Mr. Shimon Peres, was troubled somewhat by internal strife. A new centre party, known as *Telem*, was led by former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. In all, an unprecedented number of 31 different lists of candidates were submitted to the electorate.

Final polling results were close, no one party gaining a majority and—as has become the tradition in Israel—a coalition thus being necessary. *Likud* allied itself with religious parties (National Religious Party, *Agudat Israel*, *Tami*); the coalition thus formed had 66 *Knesset* seats. Mr. Begin continued as Prime Minister.

## Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Knesset

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,490,014
Voters . . . . .	1,954,609 (78.5%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	17,243
Valid votes . . . . .	1,937,366

Political Group	Number of Candi- dates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
<i>Likud</i> ( <i>Herut</i> , Liberal Party, <i>Laam</i> ) Front . . . . .	120	718,941	37.11	48	40	43
<i>Maarakh</i> (Labour Party and <i>Mapam</i> ) Alignment . . .	120	708,536	36.57	47	33	32
National Religious Party .	104	95,232	4.92	6	12	12
<i>Agudat Israel</i> . . . . .	93	72,312	3.73	4	4	4
<i>Rakah</i> Front (Communists)	120	64,918	3.35	4	5	5
<i>Tehiya</i> * . . . . .	120	44,700	2.31	3	2	—
<i>Tami</i> ** . . . . .	41	44,466	2.30	3	—	—
<i>Telem</i> * . . . . .	115	30,600	1.58	2	4	—
<i>Shinui</i> * . . . . .	120	29,837	1.54	2	5	—
Citizens' Rights Movement*** . . . . .	119	27,921	1.44	1	1	1
Others . . . . .		99,903	5.15	—	—	—
				120		

\* Formed during the outgoing *Knesset*.

\*\* New list.

\*\*\* Joined the *Maarakh* Alignment shortly after the election.

*2. Distribution of Members of the Knesset according  
to Professional Category*

Lawyers . . . . .	19
Farmers . . . . .	18
Managers . . . . .	13
Journalists and writers . . . . .	12
Teachers . . . . .	11
Political and public service officials . . . . .	9
Economists . . . . .	9
Social scientists . . . . .	6
Engineering and academic professions. . . . .	6
Clerical and administrative workers. . . . .	5
Rabbis. . . . .	3
Manual workers. . . . .	3
Others . . . . .	6
	120

*3. Distribution of Members of the Knesset according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	111
Women . . . . .	9
	120

*4. Distribution of Members of the Knesset according  
to Age Group*

30-39 years . . . . .	11
40-49 . . . . .	44
50-59 . . . . .	42
60-69 . . . . .	20
70-79 . . . . .	3
	120

## IVORY COAST

**Dates of Elections:** 9 and 23 November 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of the Ivory Coast, the National Assembly, is composed of 147 Deputies elected for 5 years. This total was raised from 120 prior to the 1980 elections\*.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of the Ivory Coast who are at least 21 years old are entitled to vote unless they have been declared insane or convicted of crime.

Electoral registers are revised at the national level before each general election. Proxy voting is permitted in exceptional circumstances. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors no less than 23 years of age who are not under guardianship are eligible to run for the National Assembly. Holders of certain public offices, such as inspectors of administrative affairs, education, labour and social security, prefects, directors of government services, magistrates of courts and tribunals of appeal, and officers of the armed forces cannot be candidates until six months after they have resigned from their posts. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with, *inter alia*, membership in the Economic and Social Council and the Cabinet, non-elective public offices, work undertaken for and financed by a foreign State or international organization, and the post of executive in a national enterprise, public company, or business enjoying advantages afforded by the State, having an exclusively financial purpose and appealing for savings and credit, or whose principal activity consists in providing State or public community services.

Candidates for the National Assembly must be members of a political party. Their names appear on the national list of candidates of their party, which must contain as many names as there are Assembly seats and which must be submitted to the authorities at the latest 21 days before the date of the elections. A deposit equivalent to US\$125 must be made for each name on the list, which is reimbursed if the list polls at least 10% of the total votes cast by the electorate.

The Ivory Coast is divided into 147 constituencies. In each of these, the Deputies are elected according to an absolute majority system in two ballots.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 16.



National Assembly seats falling vacant between general elections are only filled—by by-elections—if at least one-fifth of the seats become vacant. No by-election is however held within the last 12 months of the legislature.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The deadline for nomination of National Assembly candidates was 19 October 1980 and the election campaign opened on 25 October.

The 147 Assembly seats were contested by 649 candidates (among whom 18 women) of the ruling *Parti démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire* (PDCI), the country's only political party, such freedom of choice being unprecedented. For the first time since independence, the elections did not take place under the single national list of candidates system, but by two rounds of an absolute majority vote in 147 constituencies.

On the first polling day (9 November), voter turnout was low; 74 Deputies were elected outright on this date. Final results showed that 120 successful candidates had not been members of the outgoing Assembly; only 27 incumbent members (out of 80 running for re-election) retained their seats.

On 2 February 1981, the President of the Republic, Mr. Félix Houphouët-Boigny, announced the formation of a new 36-member Government, with five Ministers more than before. The President had himself been re-elected for a fifth five-year term on 12 October 1980.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . . 3,000,000 (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Parti démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire</i> . . . . .	147

#### 2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men . . . . .	140
Women . . . . .	7
	<hr/> 147

## **JAMAICA**

**Date of Elections:** 30 October 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the House of Representatives following the premature dissolution of this body. General elections had previously taken place on 15 December 1976.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Jamaica comprises a Senate and a House of Representatives.

The Senate consists of 21 members appointed by the Governor-General: 13 on the advice of the Prime Minister and 8 on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition.

The House of Representatives is composed of 60 members elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of Jamaica residing in the country on the date of the compilation of the register of electors, as well as citizens of the British Commonwealth who are resident in Jamaica on the said date and have so been for at least 12 months immediately preceding it, and who are 21 years of age or more may vote for members of Parliament. The insane, persons under a sentence of death or who serve or are under a sentence of imprisonment of or exceeding six months, persons convicted of electoral fraud and persons holding certain offices connected with the elections may not be registered as electors.

Electoral registers are revised before each election. Voting is not compulsory.

A candidate for election as member of the House of Representatives or appointment to the Senate must be a Commonwealth citizen of the age of 21 years or upwards who has been ordinarily resident in Jamaica for the 12 months immediately preceding the date of his nomination or appointment and who is not insane, bankrupt, owing allegiance to a foreign State, under a sentence of death or serving or under a sentence of imprisonment of or exceeding six months. Disqualified for nomination or appointment are public officers, judges of the highest courts, certain persons connected with government contracts, members of the defence force (unless excepted) and (for nomination) persons holding an office connected with elections.

For the purpose of electing members of the House of Representatives, Jamaica is divided into 60 constituencies. Each returns one member by simple majority vote.

Vacant seats in the House of Representatives, are filled through by-elections. Vacancies in the Senate are filled by appointment made by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister or the Leader of the Opposition.

## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Following the 1976 general elections, the nationwide state of emergency was lifted in June 1977. However, the socialist People's National Party (PNP) Government of Prime Minister Michael Manley faced continuing problems as political tension and violent demonstrations were widespread by 1979, and Jamaica's economic situation (particularly unemployment, foreign debt, lack of foreign investment and exchange) steadily deteriorated. In February 1980, Mr. Manley called for a general election to seek support for his economic policies and a determination of what role, if any, aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should play in the country's affairs.

The subsequent election campaign was marked by considerable violence. The principal challenger to the PNP was once again the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), which advocated free enterprise in a mixed economy and closer co-operation with the Western world.

The elections were the first since the adoption, in early 1980, of amendments aimed at electoral reform to limit fraudulent voting\*. Polling day saw a high turnout of voters and culminated in a large JLP victory; Mr. Edward P.G. Seaga, leader of the party, became Prime Minister. His 15-member Cabinet was sworn in on 7 November.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Representatives

Number of registered electors . . . . .	990,367
Valid votes . . . . .	750,416

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Jamaica Labour Party (JLP). . . . .	432,766	57.6	51 (+ 38)
People's National Party (PNP). . . . .	317,650	42.3	9 (– 38)
			60

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 16-17.

## KUWAIT

**Date of Elections:** 23 February 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament in the first such poll since dissolution of the National Assembly in August 1976\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Kuwait, the National Assembly, is composed of 50 members elected for 4 years. In addition, Ministers of the Government who are not elected members of the National Assembly are considered *ex-officio* members of Parliament; these currently number 15.

### **Electoral System**

Only literate men at least 21 years of age who are natural-born Kuwaitis or who have been naturalized citizens for 10 years are entitled to vote. Electors must, moreover, reside in Kuwait and have their names entered on the electoral register of their home constituency. Persons are disqualified from being electors if they have been convicted and not yet rehabilitated, while the right of suffrage is suspended as to military and police personnel.

Within each constituency, electoral registers are compiled by committees appointed by the Ministry of the Interior and are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory. Voting by post or proxy is not permitted.

Candidates for the National Assembly must be Kuwaiti by origin, possess the franchise, be over 30 years of age and be able to read and write Arabic well. Civil servants and members of the army or police services must resign from their offices if they stand for election. Company directors may not at the same time be members of Parliament.

As there are no political parties in Kuwait, candidates for the National Assembly run in an individual capacity. They must make a cash deposit of 50 Kuwait *dinar*, which is reimbursed if the candidate obtains one-tenth of the votes cast in his constituency.

Kuwait is divided into 25 electoral constituencies. In each, voters choose two candidates from among those whose names appear on different lists. The two candidates in each constituency who obtain the most votes are considered elected.

If a seat falls vacant between general elections, a by-election is held within two months of the date on which the vacancy was registered. No by-election is held to fill a vacancy which occurs within six months of the end of the Assembly's term.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections XI* (1976-1977), p. 22.



General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Subsequent to the 1975 general elections, the National Assembly was dissolved by the late Emir Shaikh Sabah as-Salem as-Sabah in August 1976, following sharp parliamentary criticism of the Government's policies. In August 1980, the restoration of the parliamentary system by the end of February 1981 was decreed by Emir Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

Candidates for the 50 Assembly seats totalled 447, all of them running in an individual capacity. Approximately 46% of a total possible electorate of some 90,000 registered as voters. On polling day, the majority of triumphant candidates were considered to be conservative, pro-Western and loyal to the royal family and Government; men of bedouin origin gained nearly half the seats. Arab nationalists and the Shia Moslems achieved limited results.

On 28 February, the Crown Prince, Shaikh Saad al-Abdullah as-Salem as-Sabah, was reappointed Prime Minister by the Emir, and his Council of Ministers was reshuffled. The first session of the newly-elected Assembly was held on 9 March.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections

Number of registered electors . . . . .	41,698
Voters . . . . .	(90%) (approx.)

## MONGOLIA

**Date of Elections:** 21 June 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Mongolia, the Great People's Hural, consists of 370 members elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens aged 18 and over have the right to vote, with the exception of the insane and persons serving a sentence pursuant to court decree.

Electoral lists are established at the level of *somons* (counties) and *horins* (subdivisions of towns), and made public 30 days prior to election day.

Persons meeting the same requirements as voters may be elected to all organs of State power.

Public organizations or communities of working people, trade unions, youth organizations, agricultural co-operatives and cultural associations are all entitled to put forward candidates to Parliament.

While there exists in the country only one political party—the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP)—non-party candidates may also run. Any number of candidates may compete within a constituency.

Each election district returns one Deputy, who is elected by absolute majority. A second ballot is held within two weeks should it occur that no candidate has obtained the necessary majority.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies which occur between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

For the 1981 general elections, a total of 1,576 polling stations were set up throughout Mongolia. The election boards consisted of 52,681 representatives of Party, State and public organizations. Included among these were 15,947 members of and candidates for the

Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) and 36,734 non-Party people. Of these 9,483 were members of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth League (MRYL) and 13,741 were women.

All 370 candidates nominated were elected. Among them were 344 members of and candidates for the MPRP and 26 non-Party people. These returns were interpreted as demonstrating the people's determination to implement successfully the great tasks in the socialist construction, outlined by the 18th MPRP Congress that was held in Ulan Bator in May 1981.

The newly-elected Parliament held its first session 29 June. Mr. Yumjaagiin Tsebenda was elected as Chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural (Head of State). Mr. B. Altangerel was elected Chairman of the Great People's Hural and Mr. Jambyn Batmunkh was appointed as Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections

Number of registered electors . . . . .	792,896
Voters . . . . .	99.9%

### 2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

Representatives of the intelligentsia and government employees . . . . .	164
Members of agricultural co-operatives. . . . .	106
Workers . . . . .	100
	<hr/>
	370

### 3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men . . . . .	280
Women . . . . .	90
	<hr/>
	370

## NAURU

**Date of Elections:** 6 December 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Nauru comprises 18 members elected for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens who have attained the age of 20 years and are resident in the country may vote in general elections unless they are insane or have been convicted and are under sentence for an offence punishable by imprisonment for one year or longer. Voting is compulsory except in certain specified instances.

Any citizen who has attained the age of 20 years is qualified to be elected as a member of Parliament unless he is insane, an undischarged bankrupt, under sentence for an offence punishable by death or imprisonment for at least one year, does not possess the required residence or domicile qualifications, or holds an office of profit in the service of Nauru or of a statutory corporation.

A written nomination of a candidate must be submitted at least 14 days prior to polling day, signed by the candidate and two or more electors of his district.

For election purposes, Nauru is divided into eight constituencies; two members are returned in seven of these, four in the eighth, according to a system of preferential vote. In each constituency, the candidate who has received the largest number of first preference votes is, if that number constitutes an absolute majority of these votes cast, declared elected.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

General elections were held in November 1977. In April 1978, President Bernard Dowiyogo had been compelled to resign by supporters of the former President, Chief Hammer DeRoburt, who defeated a bill concerning phosphate (Nauru's main resource) royalties. The following month, Mr. DeRoburt was re-elected President by Parliament.

Parliament was dissolved in October 1980. On polling day, the incumbent President and his allies emerged victorious, maintaining their legislative majority. Mr. DeRoburt was re-elected President on 9 December and announced his Cabinet the next day.





## NEPAL

**Date of Elections:** 9 May 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Direct elections were held for 112 members of Parliament in accordance with constitutional amendments promulgated in December 1980\*. Previously, the national legislature was a perpetual body elected by lower-tier (village, district, zonal) assemblies (councils); no general elections had taken place since 1959.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Nepal, the National *Panchayat* (Assembly), is composed of 140 members. Of these, 112 are elected and 28 are appointed by the King. The term of the Assembly is 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Nepalese citizens aged 21 or above are entitled to vote.

National *Panchayat* candidates must be Nepalese citizens at least 25 years of age who do not hold public office nor have previously been recalled from office as *Panchayat* members on grounds of misconduct or incapacity. They must, moreover, be members of one of the class organizations (peasants, workers, women, youth, adults, ex-servicemen) as prescribed by the Constitution.

Since many citizens were illiterate, candidates were identified on the ballot paper by pictorial symbols. Each candidate is obliged to pay a deposit of Rs. 1,500, which is forfeited if he does not obtain at least 5% of the votes cast in his constituency.

Deputies are elected by simple majority vote in 75 districts, 38 being allocated one seat each and 37 two seats each. By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies which arise between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

In December 1980, constitutional amendments were promulgated and provided, *inter alia*, for a new membership of the National *Panchayat* (Parliament) such as described above.

In March 1981, it was announced that the first poll under the new system would be held on 9 May. As before, the elections continued to be on a non-party basis, the electorate having decided against the reintroduction of a multi-party system in a referendum in May 1980\*\*.

\*See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 19.

\*\*See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-1980), pp. 21-22.

Some 1,110 candidates (39 of them women) vied for the 112 elective seats. Several banned party leaders called for a boycott of the poll, but voters largely rejected this call.

In accordance with the new constitutional provisions, the newly-elected Parliament met to elect the Prime Minister on 14 June. Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, who had held this post previously, was chosen. He subsequently formed his Council of Ministers.

## Statistics

### 1. *Results of the Elections*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	7,800,000 (approx.)
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## NETHERLANDS

**Dates of Elections:** 1 July 1980 (First Chamber)  
26 May 1981 (First and Second Chamber)

### Purpose of Elections

#### *1 July 1980*

Elections were held for one-half (38) of the members of the Senate on the normal expiry of their term of office.

#### *26 May 1981*

Elections were held for all the members of both Chambers in connection with proposals to change the Constitution; the date of these elections coincided with the normal expiry of the term of office of the members of the Second Chamber (Lower House).

### Characteristics of Parliament

The Parliament of the Netherlands, the States-General, is bicameral. The First Chamber (Upper House) comprises 75 members indirectly elected for 6 years, half of whom are renewed every 3 years, except in case of a change in the Constitution, when the whole Chamber is dissolved. The Second Chamber (Lower House) is composed of 150 members elected for 4 years.

### Electoral System

Every Netherlands citizen who is at least 18 years old and resident in the Netherlands is entitled to vote unless he is insane, a prisoner, has been disenfranchised as a result of certain criminal convictions, or has been deprived of parental authority or guardianship over his children.

Any Netherlands civil servant serving abroad and his Dutch spouse are deemed to be residents of the Netherlands for the purpose of the Election Act.

Electoral registers are continuously kept up to date. Voting is not compulsory. Proxy voting is permitted within strict limits.

To be eligible for election to either Chamber, a candidate must have Netherlands nationality and be at least 25 years of age. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the office of civil servant, member of the armed forces, Minister, Vice-President or member of the Council of State, judge of the Supreme Court, member of the General Board of Auditors, Queen's Commissioner in a province and Clerk of either Chamber. A Minister who is chosen as member of the States-General may nevertheless, for a period not exceeding three months, hold both these posts.

In each electoral district, lists of candidates must be supported by at least 25 electors. The 25 nominating persons can appoint a representative who is empowered to link their list with



other lists, at the national level, into what is then called a group of lists. Nominations of lists of parties which are not already represented in the Second Chamber must be accompanied by a deposit of 1,000 *guilders*. This deposit is not refunded if the number of votes obtained by the political group remains below 75% of the established electoral quota.

For elections to the Second Chamber, voting takes place in 18 districts, under a party-list system with proportional representation. Seats are distributed on the national level among different lists or groups of lists, each being awarded as many seats as its total number of votes for its candidates is the multiple of an established national quota (the total of valid votes in the country divided by the number of seats (150) to be filled). Within each list, seats are then allocated among candidates according to the order in which they appear on the list. The seats remaining unfilled after this first distribution are then allocated according to the d'Hondt method of highest average.

Members of the first Chamber are elected by the 11 provincial councils (grouped into four electoral colleges) by party-list system, with seats proportionately filled as for members of the Second Chamber.

If a seat becomes vacant between general elections, it is filled by the candidate who is "next in line" on the list of the same party which previously held the seat.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

#### *26 May 1981*

Following the May 1977 general elections, protracted negotiations between political groups preceded the formation of a centre-right coalition Government in December 1977. This coalition, between the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) and the conservative People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) (Liberals), was headed by Mr. Andries van Agt (CDA). Supported by 77 of the 150 Second Chamber members, the Government subsequently overcame censure motions and ministerial resignations. Controversial national issues raised during the campaign included nuclear development, the Government defending its nuclear energy proposals on economic grounds; deployment of NATO Cruise missiles on Dutch soil; the wage-freeze policy begun in January 1980; unemployment; the Government's housing policy; and social security expenditure. The campaign was also marked by the personal confrontation between the Prime Minister, Mr. Andries van Agt, and Mr. Joop Den Uyl, the former Prime Minister and leader of the Labour Party.

On polling day, the country's three largest parties—CDA, Labour (PvdA) and VVD—lost seats, largely at the expense of the smaller progressive-liberal Democrats '66 (D '66) group, which more than doubled its parliamentary representation to arrive at 17 seats. CDA replaced Labour as the biggest party in the Second Chamber, but the outgoing governing coalition lost its absolute parliamentary majority. Out of 28 parties which had taken part in the election, 10 succeeded in obtaining seats.

On 10 September 1981, the leaders of CDA, PvdA and D '66 reached agreement on a centre-left coalition Cabinet after three and a half months of negotiations. Mr. van Agt remained Prime Minister.

## Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the First Chamber  
following the 1 July 1980 Elections*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) . . . . .	27 (+3)
Labour Party (PvdA). . . . .	26 (+1)
People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) (Liberals) . . . . .	13 (−2)
Radical Party (PPR) . . . . .	3 (−2)
Democrats '66 (D '66) . . . . .	2 (+2)
Netherlands Communist Party (CPN). . . . .	1 (−1)
State Reform Party (SGP) . . . . .	1 (=)
Pacifist-Socialist Party (PSP) . . . . .	1 (=)
Reformed Political Association (GPV) . . . . .	1 (=)
Independent . . . . .	— (−1)
	75

2. *Results of the 26 May 1981 Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Second Chamber*

Voters . . . . .	86.1%
Valid votes . . . . .	8,689,263

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) . . . . .	2,677,259	30.8	48 (−1)
Labour Party (PvdA). . . . .	2,456,338	28.3	44 (−9)
People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) (Liberals) . . . . .	1,505,311	17.3	26 (−2)
Democrats '66 (D '66) . . . . .	961,121	11.1	17 (+9)
Pacifist-Socialist Party (PSP) . . . . .	184,422	2.1	3 (+2)
Netherlands Communist Party (CPN). . . . .	178,292	2.0	3 (+1)
State Reform Party (SGP) . . . . .	171,324	1.9	3 (=)
Radical Party (PPR) . . . . .	171,042	1.9	3 (=)
Reformed Political Federation (RPF) . . . . .	108,364	1.3	2 (+2)
Reformed Political Association (GPV) . . . . .	70,878	0.8	1 (=)
Others . . . . .	204,912	2.5	— (−2)
			150

3. *Distribution of Seats in the First Chamber  
following the 26 May 1981 Elections*

Political Group	Number of Seats
CDA . . . . .	28 (+1)
PvdA . . . . .	28 (+2)
VVD . . . . .	12 (−1)
D '66 . . . . .	4 (+2)
Others . . . . .	3 (−4)
	<hr/> 75

## PORTUGAL

**Date of Elections:** 5 October 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry\* of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Portugal, the Assembly of the Republic, consists of 250 Deputies elected to represent metropolitan Portugal and electors residing abroad. The latter are represented by 4 Deputies. The normal term of the legislature is 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Portuguese citizens, even if residing abroad, are entitled to vote if at least 18 years old and registered as electors. Disqualified are the insane and mentally infirm, persons incompetent to manage their own affairs, persons serving their sentences following conviction for crime, those deprived of their political rights and certain categories of persons who held important public positions prior to 25 April 1974 and did not clearly repudiate before this date the political régime then in power.

Electoral registers are permanent and revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors are eligible for membership of Parliament. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with membership of the Government and active service in the military and police forces, as well as with the post of magistrate, diplomat, and certain public and ecclesiastical offices. Portuguese citizens who have a second nationality may not stand as candidates in the constituency which is adjacent to the territory of this nationality. Deputies who are civil servants or members of public corporations may not exercise the latter functions during the term of the legislature.

Candidates are nominated by political parties. The lists may bear names of persons who are not party members.

Deputies are elected in 22 constituencies by party-list system, with proportional representation based on the d'Hondt method. The lists must bear as many names as there are seats to be filled in the constituency. Electors may only vote for one list.

Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections are filled by the first of the "next-in-line" candidates appearing on the same party list.

\* See "General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections", below.



### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General elections were previously held in April 1976 and December 1979. The October 1980 poll was nevertheless due under the 1976 Constitution. Article 174 of this text states that each legislative period is to last four years, and that in the event of a premature dissolution (as in 1979), the Assembly subsequently elected does not begin a new legislative period.

As in 1979, one of the main competitors for Assembly seats was the ruling electoral coalition of the Democratic Alliance (consisting of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) headed by Prime Minister Francisco Sa Carneiro, the Centre Democratic Party (CDS), and the People's Monarchist Party (PPM)). This rightist Alliance (AD) was challenged by the Republican and Socialist Front (FRS), formed in June 1980; it comprised the Socialist Party (PS), the Socialist and Democratic Left (UEDS) and the Independent Social Democratic Association (ASDI). The third major contender was the United People's Alliance (APU) composed of the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) and the Democratic Movement (MDP).

During the election campaign, which lasted from 14 September to 3 October, government expropriation of land was one of the key issues raised by the AD, which opposed such action. The Socialist Party, as well as the Communists, questioned the Prime Minister's personal integrity, particularly in financial dealings.

On polling day, both the Socialist Party and the APU lost ground, as the AD was returned with an increased absolute majority in the Assembly. Dr. Sa Carneiro's Council of Ministers, which had first taken office on 3 January 1980, remained intact until the accidental death of the Prime Minister in December 1980.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Assembly of the Republic

Number of registered electors . . . . .	7,179,024
Voters . . . . .	6,026,395 (83.94%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	137,662
Valid votes . . . . .	5,888,733

Political Group	Number of Candi- dates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
Democratic Alliance (AD)*	240	2,706,667	44.91	126	128
Social Democratic Party (PSD)** . . . . .	10	147,644	2.45	8	
Centre Democratic Party (CDS)** . . . . .	10	13,765	0.23	—	—
Republican and Socialist Front (FRS)*** . . . . .	236	1,606,198	26.65	71	74 (Socialist Party only)
Socialist Party (PS)**** . . . . .	14	67,081	1.11	3	
United People's Alliance (APU)***** . . . . .	250	1,009,505	16.75	41	47
Popular Democratic Union	250	83,204	1.38	1	1
				250	250

\* The Democratic Alliance is an electoral coalition comprising the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the Centre Democratic Party (CDS) and the People's Monarchist Party (PPM).

\*\* The PSD and CDS fielded separate candidates in the Madeira Islands and the Azores.

\*\*\* The Republican and Socialist Front is an electoral coalition comprising the Socialist Party (PS), the Socialist and Democratic Left (UEDS) and the Independent Social Democratic Association (ASDI).

\*\*\*\* The Socialist Party fielded candidates in the Madeira Islands, the Azores and in the two constituencies of electors residing abroad.

\*\*\*\*\* The United People's Alliance (APU) is an electoral coalition comprising the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) and the Portuguese Democratic Movement (MDP/CDE).



## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**Date of Elections:** 25 March 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament under the terms of the new Constitution promulgated in October 1980\*. General elections had previously taken place in December 1978.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of the Republic of Korea, the National Assembly, comprises 276 members elected for 4 years. Of these, 184 are elected directly from 92 districts and 92 seats are set aside for proportional representation. All members have the same status while in office.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens who have attained the age of 20 are entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane, undischarged bankrupts, persons convicted of crime unless the execution of the sentence has been suspended or the term of imprisonment completed, and persons convicted of electoral fraud.

Electoral registers are compiled on the local (city, county, town) level as of the announcement of the polling day and revised continuously during this pre-election period. Voting is not compulsory.

Every qualified elector who has attained the age of 25 may be a candidate for the National Assembly. Certain government officials, employees of public corporations and of agricultural, marine and rancher co-operatives may not simultaneously be Assembly members.

Candidates may figure on party lists or run as independents. In the latter case, they need the support of 500 to 700 voters in their constituency. All candidates must make a monetary deposit—7,000,000 *Won* for party nominees, 15,000,000 *Won* for independents; these sums are forfeited if at least one-third of the valid votes cast in the constituency are not obtained by each individual.

Under the new Electoral Law, Assembly members are chosen according to a combined system of simple majority direct election and proportional representation. The party that wins the most seats in the 92 two-member district constituencies is automatically given two-thirds of the remaining 92 seats, with the rest divided proportionately among the other parties in accordance with their winnings, on condition that these have captured at least five elective seats. No one party may hold more than 55.4% of all parliamentary seats. All minor parties must be dissolved if they have not won at least one seat or 2% of the valid votes cast.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 23-24.



By-elections are held to fill constituency seats which fall vacant between general elections while vacant proportional representation seats are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates of the political party concerned.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General elections had previously taken place in December 1978. President of the Republic Park Chung-Hee was assassinated in October 1979, and a military coup d'Etat took place two months later. In October 1980, a new Constitution was approved by popular referendum and a Legislative Council for National Security was formed to assume legislative functions\*. Martial law was lifted in January 1981 and Mr. Chun Doo-Hwan of the Democratic Justice Party (DJP) was elected President the next month. He announced the date of the parliamentary elections on 5 March.

A total of 635 candidates and 12 parties competed for the National Assembly seats; of those in the running were 105 independents. Major contesting parties were the DJP, the main opposition Democratic Korea Party (DKP), and the Korea National Party (KNP). The DKP had been formed by former members of the dissolved opposition New Democratic Party (NDP), while the KNP contained elements of the former ruling Democratic Republican Party (DRP). The DJP asked that it be supported so that the Republic might enjoy continued stability and prosperity. The other groups' main campaign appeal was the need for an effective opposition in Parliament. Various social and economic issues of national importance were also widely debated.

On polling day, voter turnout was high and the DJP scored a clear victory. Its candidate won 90 of the 184 directly elective seats and, as the strongest group at the polls, it was given a further 61 proportional representation seats for a total of 151.

The first session of the newly-elected Assembly was held on 11 April. The DJP Prime Minister is Mr. Nam Duck-Woo.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 23-24.

# Statistics

## 1. Results of the Elections\* and Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	20,909,120
Voters . . . . .	16,397,845 (78.4%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	190,520
Valid votes . . . . .	16,207,325

\*Excluding one constituency in which two candidates were elected unopposed.

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats		Total Number of Seats
				Direct Election	Proportional Representation	
Democratic Justice Party (DJP) . . . . .	92	5,776,624	35.6	90	61	151
Democratic Korea Party (DKP) . . . . .	91	3,495,829	21.6	57	24	81
Korea National Party (KNP) . . . . .	75	2,147,293	13.3	18	7	25
Civil Rights Party (CRP) . . . . .	82	1,088,847	6.7	2	—	2
New Political Party (NPP) . . . . .	54	676,921	4.2	2	—	2
Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) . . . . .	50	524,361	3.2	2	—	2
Others . . . . .	85	763,226	4.7	2	—	2
Independents . . . . .	106	1,734,224	10.7	11	—	11
				184	92	276

## 2. Distribution of Members of the National Assembly according to Professional Category

Former Assembly members and Cabinet members . . . . .	54
Businessmen . . . . .	51
Professors and teachers . . . . .	30
Political party staff members . . . . .	26
Civil servants . . . . .	24
Journalists . . . . .	23
Lawyers . . . . .	22
Career military personnel . . . . .	17
Others . . . . .	29
	276

3. *Distribution of Members of the National Assembly  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	268
Women . . . . .	8
	<hr/>
	276

4. *Distribution of Members of the National Assembly according  
to Age Group*

31-35 . . . . .	1
36-40 . . . . .	20
41-45 . . . . .	69
46-50 . . . . .	85
51-55 . . . . .	54
56-60 . . . . .	25
61-70 . . . . .	21
Over 71 . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
	276

## SINGAPORE

**Date of Elections:** 23 December 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following the premature dissolution of this body on 5 December 1980. General elections had previously taken place on 23 December 1976.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Singapore consists of 75 members\* elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Singaporean citizens resident in the country and at least 21 years of age are entitled to vote. Disqualified from this right are persons owing allegiance to a foreign State, those under sentence of death or serving a sentence of imprisonment for a period in excess of 12 months, the insane, persons convicted of election-connected offences and persons on active duty with an armed force not maintained out of moneys provided by Parliament, unless possessing a domicile in Singapore.

Electoral registers are revised at the latest three years after the last general election. Voting is compulsory, failure to vote resulting in the offender's name being expunged from the register.

Candidates for Parliament must be qualified electors who are residents of Singapore at the time of their nomination and have been so resident for periods totalling at least 10 years\*, and who are able, with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable them to take an active part in the proceedings of the Parliament, to read and write at least one of the following languages: English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil. Not qualified to be members of Parliament, however, are undischarged bankrupts, persons sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to a fine of at least S\$2,000, and persons who have been candidates or election agents to candidates and who have failed to lodge a return of election expenses as required by law. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with an office of profit in Singapore.

Each candidate's nomination paper must be signed by two persons as proposer and seconder and by not less than four other persons, all of whose names must appear on the register of electors for the candidate's electoral division. A candidate must make a deposit of S\$1,500, which is reimbursed if he obtains more than one-eighth of the total number of votes polled in his division.

For election purposes, Singapore is divided into 75 divisions, each returning one member by simple majority vote.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies occurring between general elections.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 24-25.



## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The normal term of Parliament would have run for five years as from 7 February 1977, but the holding of new elections was announced on 30 November 1980.

During the election campaign, the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) stressed the importance of continuity of a strong and tested Government, while the opposition parties—the United People's Front, the United Front, the Workers' Party, the *Barisan Sosialis*, the Singapore Democratic Party, the Singapore Justice Party, and the Singapore Malay National Organization (PKMS)—pointed to the need for an opposition in Parliament and the lowering of various charges such as those on public utilities, road taxes and medical fees. Some parties called for the reduction of defence spending, the abolition of National Service and closer co-operation with Malaysia.

On Nomination Day (13 December 1980), the PAP won 37 uncontested seats. On polling day, the PAP won all the remaining 38 contested seats. In terms of percentage of the votes cast, the PAP won 75.55%, as compared to 72.4% in the 1976 elections. Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew remained in power; his new Cabinet was sworn in on 6 January 1981.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections\* and Distribution of Seats in Parliament

Number of registered electors . . . . .	685,141
Voters . . . . .	654,195 (95.48%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	17,743
Valid votes . . . . .	636,452

\*In the 38 constituencies where polling took place.

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
People's Action Party (PAP). . . . .	75	494,268	75.55	75 (+ 6)**
Workers' Party . . . . .	8	39,590	6.05	—
United People's Front . . . . .	14	28,586	4.37	—
United Front . . . . .	8	27,522	4.21	—
<i>Barisan Sosialis</i> . . . . .	4	16,488	2.52	—
Singapore Malay National Organization (PKMS) . . . . .	4	13,435	2.05	—
Singapore Democratic Party . . . . .	3	11,292	1.73	—
Singapore Justice Party . . . . .	2	5,271	0.81	—
				75**

\*\*Six seats added since last elections.

*2. Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Professional Category*

University professors and lecturers . . . . .	9
Lawyers . . . . .	6
Journalists . . . . .	4
Doctors . . . . .	3
Architects . . . . .	3
Engineers . . . . .	3
Others (Trade unionists, businessmen, teachers, politicians, former civil servants, accountants, etc.) . . . . .	47
	<hr/> 75

*3. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	75
Women . . . . .	—
	<hr/> 75

*4. Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Age Group*

30-39 years . . . . .	15
40-49 . . . . .	39
50-59 . . . . .	16
60-69 . . . . .	5
	<hr/> 75



## SOLOMON ISLANDS

**Date of Elections:** 6 August 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament in the first such poll since Solomon Islands became fully independent in July 1978\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral National Parliament of Solomon Islands comprises 38 members elected for a maximum of 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of Solomon Islands who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote in the constituency in which they are ordinarily resident. Disqualified from voting are persons under sentence of death or imprisonment for at least six months, the insane and persons debarred because of election-connected offences.

Electoral registers are compiled on the ward level of each constituency and revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors who have attained the age of 21 years are eligible for election to Parliament. Disqualified are persons under allegiance to a foreign State, holders of public or election-connected offices, and undischarged bankrupts.

Candidates must be supported by at least three electors ordinarily resident in the same constituency and deposit a non-refundable sum of \$100.

The 38 members of Parliament are elected in a like number of constituencies by simple majority vote.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies which arise between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The Parliament elected on 22 June 1976 continued to sit after independence and until the expiry of its four-year term. Most of the members had originally been elected as independents, and such status was again quite prevalent among the 244 candidates in 1980.

One of the main political issues in the campaign was that of decentralization of administrative authority to the country's different regions. On polling day, approximately

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), pp. 26-27.



two-thirds of the outgoing members were defeated as the Solomon Islands United Party (SIUPA), headed by Prime Minister Peter Kenilorea, won the most seats, although falling short of an absolute parliamentary majority.

In late August, the newly-elected Parliament re-elected Mr. Kenilorea as Prime Minister. Half of the members of his new Cabinet were independents.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in Parliament

Number of registered electors . . . . .	99,843
Valid votes . . . . .	58,136

Political Group	Number of Seats
Solomon Islands United Party . . . . .	16
People's Alliance Party . . . . .	9
National Democratic Party . . . . .	2
Independents . . . . .	11
	<hr/> 38

### 2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex

Men . . . . .	38
Women . . . . .	—
	<hr/> 38

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

**Date of Elections:** 29 April 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the popularly-chosen members of Parliament some 18 months before the normal expiry of their term of office. General elections had previously been held in November 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

Since 1 January 1981, South Africa has a unicameral Parliament consisting of the House of Assembly only\*. It is composed of 177 members; of these, 165 are elected for 5 years, 76 representing the Transvaal, 55 the Cape Province, 20 Natal and 14 the Orange Free State. Of the remaining 12 members, 4 (one for each province) are nominated by the State President and 8 are elected by the 165 popularly-chosen members according to the principle of proportional representation, each voter having one transferable vote.

### **Electoral System**

In order to be eligible to be registered as a voter in any electoral division, a person must be a South African citizen at least 18 years of age who is either actually resident in that division on the date of completion of his application for registration or has retained his home therein. He must, in addition, be a white person of sound mind. Persons convicted of treason (after 1950) and murder, as well as certain persons convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice under the Electoral Act, of an offence under the Suppression of Communism Act (1950) or the Terrorism Act (1967), or of any other offence in respect of which imprisonment has been imposed and such sentence has not expired are not entitled to registration.

Electoral registers are drawn up at the division level and are kept up to date by means of a system of continuous registration of voters and supplementation of lists; general registrations of voters take place at intervals of not more than 10 years. Voting is not compulsory.

In order to be eligible for the House of Assembly, it is necessary to be an 18-year-old white person and South African citizen who has resided for at least five years within the territory of the Republic.

Undischarged bankrupts, persons declared of unsound mind by a competent court, certain persons holding an office of profit under the Republic, as well as certain persons who have at one time been sentenced to imprisonment for at least 12 months are ineligible to be candidates for Parliament.

Nominations must be supported by two electors (proposer and seconder) from the division concerned. Nomination of candidates representing a political party are accepted

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-1980), pp. 28-29.

only if the party is duly registered with the Chief Electoral Officer, who must be satisfied that the party has the support of at least 50 voters and that it has made a deposit of 500 *Rand*. Candidates of a political party with no seat in Parliament as yet or independent candidates must provide a statement signed by at least 300 voters supporting their candidatures, and make a deposit of 400 *Rand* per candidate, which is forfeited if the candidate polls less than one-fifth of the number of votes received by the successful candidate in his division. All nominations should be made no less than 21 days and no more than 28 days after the calling of a general election.

House of Assembly members in each of the 165 single-member constituencies are elected by simple majority. Electors vote for a single candidate to the exclusion of all others.

By-elections are held to fill elective parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

On 28 January 1981, Prime Minister Pieter Botha scheduled general elections for the House of Assembly and the provincial councils for the end of April—some 18 months before a vote was due. He justified this announcement by pointing out that 17 parliamentary and 13 provincial by-elections were due, and stated that the elections would be fought on the theme of “security and progress”. Political observers, for their part, interpreted this strategy as caused by the Prime Minister’s wish to win a general election in his own right\* to give him a stronger mandate in resolving differences between reformist and conservative wings of his National Party (NP) over issues involving constitutional change and other reformist measures. Main challengers to the ruling NP were the official opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP), the middle-of-the-road New Republic Party (NRP) and the extreme right-wing *Herstigte Nasionale Party* (HNP).

On polling day, the NP was returned to power with a reduced Assembly majority capturing 131 (previously 134) of the 165 seats, as there were defections to both the left and right of the political spectrum. The PFP, favouring moderately integrationist policies and led by Dr. Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, significantly increased its parliamentary representation while the HNP, led by Mr. Jaap Marais, greatly raised its vote total but won no seats. Mr. Botha remained Prime Minister.

\* Mr. John Vorster led the National Party in the 1977 general elections.

## tistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the House of Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,290,942
Voters . . . . .	1,389,893*
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	24,926
Valid votes . . . . .	1,364,967

\* Results apply to contested seats.

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats**
National Party (NP) . . . . .	154	777,558	56.96	131 (− 3)
Progressive Federal Party (PFP) . . . . .	78	265,297	19.44	26 (+ 9)
New Republic Party (NRP) . . . . .	38	106,764	7.82	8 (− 2)
Verstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) . . . . .	87	192,304	14.09	— (=)
Others . . . . .	12	23,044	1.68	— (− 3)
				165***

\*\* This figure does not include the 12 additional members, i.e. those nominated or elected by an electoral college, who obtained seats in the House on 23 January 1981 and who remain in office for 90 days after the general elections (see section "Parliamentary Developments"). Of these 12 members, 10 represented the NP and one the PFP.

\*\*\* Parenthetical comparison with previous elections does not include one vacancy.

2. *Distribution of Fully Elected Members of Parliament  
according to Professional Category*

Farmers . . . . .	43
Politicians . . . . .	41
Legal profession . . . . .	30
Businessmen . . . . .	16
Company directors . . . . .	11
Engineers . . . . .	6
Doctors . . . . .	6
Teachers . . . . .	3
Lecturers . . . . .	2
Others . . . . .	7
	165



3. *Distribution of Fully Elected Members of Parliament  
according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	163
Women . . . . .	2
	<hr/>
	165

4. *Distribution of Fully Elected Members of Parliament  
according to Age Group*

20-29 years . . . . .	1
30-39 . . . . .	18
40-49 . . . . .	57
50-59 . . . . .	70
60 and over. . . . .	19
	<hr/>
	165

## UGANDA

**Dates of Elections:** 10 and 11 December 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament following the decision to re-establish the National Assembly\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Uganda, the National Assembly, comprises 126 members elected for 5 years. There are 30 additional members: 10 specially elected by the National Assembly, 10 nominated by the President of the Republic and 10 representatives of the armed forces.

### **Electoral System**

All Ugandan citizens who are at least 18 years old and have been resident in the country for six months immediately preceding the date on which they apply for registration as electors are entitled to vote. Disqualified are persons owing allegiance to a foreign State, discharged bankrupts, the insane, and persons under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding six months.

Electoral registers are revised by an Electoral Commission as the need arises. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors who are able to speak and, unless incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause, to read the country's official language well enough to take an active part in the proceedings of the National Assembly are qualified to be members of this Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with central or local government offices and those of urban authorities, as well as with membership of district or municipal councils.

Each candidate must be a member of a political party. His nomination must be supported by 12 electors and be accompanied by a deposit of 10,000 Uganda shillings, which is refunded if the candidate is returned unopposed or polls at least one-eighth of the votes cast in his constituency.

The 126 directly-elected Assembly members are chosen in a like number of constituencies by simple majority vote. By-elections are held to fill seats of these members which become vacant between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The 1980 general elections were the first since 1962. In 1971, Parliament was dissolved when Major-General Idi Amin Dada came to power. President Amin was overthrown in

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 26-27.

1979, paving the way for the elections that were contested by a number of parties, among which the Uganda People's Congress (UPC), headed by former President (from 1966 to 1971) Milton Obote.

The election date was set on 18 September 1980. The three-month campaign was turbulent. Opposing the socialist-inclined UPC—which advocated a programme of investment and reconstruction to restore the country's troubled economy—were the conservative Democratic Party (DP), led by Mr. Paul Ssemogerere, the Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM) and the Conservative Party (CP).

Voting was extended by an extra half-day because of the late arrival of ballot boxes and papers in many areas. A British Commonwealth team of observers monitored the procedure.

On polling day, the UPC came out on top with 74 seats, which represented more than 40% of the Parliament and thus allowed it, under the Constitution, to choose the President. The DP captured 51 seats and the UPM one, a fresh poll being ordered in two constituencies because of violence during voting.

On 15 December, Dr. Obote was sworn in as President; he subsequently announced the formation of the new Cabinet, which included Mr. Otema Alimadi as Prime Minister. On 23 December, the newly-elected Parliament first met.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats of Directly-Elected Members in the National Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	4,899,146*
Valid votes . . . . .	4,179,111**

\* Excluding two constituencies where polling took place without the registers reaching the Electoral Commission.

\*\* Excluding 17 constituencies where candidates were returned unopposed.

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Uganda People's Congress (UPC) . . . . .	126	1,971,779	47.18	74
Democratic Party (DP) . . . . .	108	1,965,823	47.04	51
Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM) . . . . .	76	171,256	4.10	1
Conservative Party (CP) . . . . .	47	70,253	1.68	—
				126

### 2. Distribution of Directly-Elected Members of Parliament according to Sex

Men . . . . .	125
Women . . . . .	1
	126

## UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**Date of Elections:** 26 October 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the 111 popularly-chosen members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, the National Assembly, is composed of directly elected, indirectly elected, nominated and *ex-officio* members. Of the current overall total of 239, 111 (101 from the mainland and 10 from Zanzibar) are directly elected for a maximum of 5 years; 40 (25 regional members—20 from the mainland and 5 from Zanzibar—and 15 representing statutory bodies) are national members elected by the National Assembly; 62 are nominated or appointed (32 appointed by the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, 30 presidential nominees (20 from Zanzibar and 10 from the mainland)); and 25 regional commissioners are *ex-officio* members of the Assembly. The Vice-President of the Republic is for his part an *ex-officio* member.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen of Tanzania who has attained the age of 18 years is entitled to be registered as a voter. Disqualified from registration, however, are persons owing allegiance to a foreign State, those of unsound mind, and those under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding six months.

Registers of electors are drawn up within the constituencies during the six months before the elections. Voting is not compulsory.

Any citizen who has attained the age of 21 years and is a member of the country's sole political party (CCM—the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania) is qualified for election. Besides the grounds for disqualification of electors, those for candidates include detention or deportation in excess of six months and undischarged bankruptcy.

Nomination day in any constituency is scheduled between the 5th and the 25th day after the dissolution of the previous Parliament; candidates must be nominated in writing by not less than 25 registered voters of the constituency, and their candidatures must be approved by the National Executive Committee of the Party.

As regards members elected by the National Assembly who represent institutions of a national character, or who are chosen on a regional basis, every national institution, or Regional Development Committee, may nominate up to five members; these names must in turn be submitted for approval to the National Executive Committee of the Party.

The 111 popularly-chosen members are elected by simple majority in a like number of constituencies.

By-elections are held to fill elective seats in Parliament which fall vacant between general elections.



## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As is customary in Tanzania, the 1980 legislative elections were held simultaneously with those for President of the Republic.

Of the 111 constituency seats, 109 were contested by two candidates each, unopposed candidates being fielded in the remaining two. All were nominated by 22 August 1980 and all belonged to the country's sole political party—the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (*Chama Cha Mapinduzi*-CCM).

On polling day, approximately half of the incumbent members, including one Cabinet Minister and two Deputy Ministers, lost their seats in an outcome that was generally interpreted as reflecting public concern over the country's economic problems. President Julius Nyerere, re-elected for another five-year term, was sworn in on 5 November and announced his new Cabinet two days later. The new Prime Minister is Mr. Cleopa Msuya.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats of Directly-Elected Members in the National Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	6,604,408
Voters . . . . .	5,594,342 (84.7%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	177,243
Valid votes . . . . .	5,417,099

Political Group	Number of Seats
Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM) . . .	111

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according  
to Professional Category*

Civil servants . . . . .	193
Farmers . . . . .	18
Members of the armed forces . . . . .	17
Lawyers . . . . .	5
	<hr/>
	233*

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	210
Women . . . . .	23
	<hr/>
	233*

4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according  
to Age Group*

21-35 years . . . . .	28
36-55 . . . . .	196
56 and above . . . . .	9
	<hr/>
	233*

\* No data available as to remaining six members.



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Date of Elections:** 4 November 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the House of Representatives and one-third (34) of the members of the Senate on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of the United States of America, the Congress, consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Senate is composed of 100 members elected for 6 years on the basis of two for each of the country's 50 States, a third of whom are chosen every two years in such manner that, in each State, both Senators are not normally standing for election at the same time.

The House of Representatives is composed of members elected for 2 years in the 50 States in such manner that each Representative represents roughly the same number of citizens, provided that each State has at least one Representative. Within the constitutional limitation that "the number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand" inhabitants, the Congress itself has the power to determine the size of the House of Representatives. Under the law currently in force, the membership from the 50 States is fixed at 435. In addition to these Representatives, there are Delegates from the District of Columbia, Guam, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa\*, who are elected for 2 years, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, elected for 4 years; these five officers may take part in the debate of the House, but have no right to vote except in committees.

### **Electoral System**

The Constitution of the United States lays down that all citizens who, "in each State, shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislature", are entitled to vote in elections for Congress; it prescribes, furthermore, that the right of citizens to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of race, colour or sex, or by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

Within these limitations, the determination of who may vote falls under the jurisdiction of each State, with the proviso that no violation be made of the factors of discrimination proscribed by the Constitution. In all States, electors are required to be United States citizens and not less than 18 years of age. In elections other than presidential, the United States Supreme Court has held that a maximum period of 30 days' residence in a State is what will be constitutionally permissible. Most States have conformed their durational residence requirements to meet this Supreme Court standard.

With the passage of the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970, the States ceased to

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 28-29.



have the right to impose literacy tests or similar devices as a condition for voting; the 1970 Amendments to the Voting Rights Act made permanent the ban on such tests or devices.

The insane and persons convicted of a crime which carries the penalty of disenfranchisement are disqualified from voting in many States. Other grounds for disqualification found in some States include conviction for an election-connected offence, duelling, bad moral character and imprisonment. Tests of moral character, however, fall under the prohibition of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

Electors must have their names appear on the registers as eligible voters in virtually all the States. In these cases, persons must take the initiative in order to become registered to vote. Once on the register, voters generally need take no initiative other than to continue to vote regularly, provided that they do not change their names or addresses. The registers—which are mostly drawn up at the county level—are revised almost continuously, and particularly before State-wide elections. The Overseas Voting Rights Act of 1975 requires States to adopt uniform absentee registration and voting procedures covering overseas citizens in federal elections.

Although voting is not compulsory, employers in many States are required to allow their employees to take time off to vote without loss of pay. Most States permit absentee voting especially for members of the armed forces and their dependants and Government employees.

No person may be a Representative who has not attained the age of 25 years and been for seven years a citizen of the United States and an inhabitant of his State; for the Senate the requirement is 30 years of age and nine years' citizenship and an inhabitant of his State. No Senator or Representative may hold any civil office under the authority of the United States during his term in Congress.

A person may run for Congress either as an independent or as a member of a political party; most candidates are, in practice, presented on the ballot paper under a party designation. Voters may "write in" the name of a candidate who does not appear on the printed ballot.

Nomination as a result of nominating, or primary, elections of parties is the practice in most States. It is regulated by State law. Usually, a person may become a candidate in the primary election by obtaining a petition subscribed by a designated number of voters of his political party. Voters then choose their party's candidate at the primary election. The number of voters whose support is necessary to qualify as a candidate in either a party primary or in a general election, and the necessity or amount of an accompanying filing fee, vary according to State law.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended in 1974, 1976 and 1980, provides for the civil enforcement of the federal campaign financing laws; these laws provide for various overall contribution limitations for individuals and political committees. The United States Supreme Court has held expenditure limitations to be unconstitutional since they place substantial direct restrictions on political expression that is prohibited by the First Amendment; expenditure limitations, however, are valid in situations where candidates agree to adhere to them in order to receive public financing.

Each State is entitled to at least one Representative and all beyond this minimum number are apportioned among the States according to population, so that no congressional district

exactly the same geographical size. Districts must, however, be substantially the same size in terms of population. Representatives all come from single-member districts.

Each of the 50 States is entitled to two Senators, both of whom represent the State as a whole regardless of its population. Each elector therefore votes for two senatorial candidates.

Members of Congress are all directly elected, generally on the basis of simple plurality of vote. The two exceptions are the State of Georgia and the District of Columbia, both of which provide for a run-off election in the event that no candidate obtains an absolute majority of the votes cast in the general election.

If a seat becomes vacant in the House of Representatives between general elections, a special election is held. If a seat becomes vacant in the Senate, the Governor of the State concerned may, through a temporary appointment, fill it until a special election is held in conformity with the laws of that State.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The landslide victory of the Republican Party in the 1980 presidential race was clearly reflected in the simultaneous congressional elections, as the Republicans won control of the Senate for the first time since the 1952 poll and considerably reduced the Democratic Party's majority in the House of Representatives. For the first time since the 1916 elections the two Houses were controlled by different parties.

Principal campaign issues debated by incumbent President Jimmy Carter and Republican candidate Ronald Reagan included management of the country's economy and, in foreign affairs, the detention by Iran of US hostages and the 1979 draft treaty with the USSR on strategic arms limitation, whose congressional ratification had been postponed because of the military intervention in Afghanistan by the USSR in December 1979. Mr. Reagan's conservative political platform, which included drastic proposals to trim the nation's budget and a promise to adopt a firm line in international affairs, proved more appealing to the electorate, which turned out in low numbers on polling day.

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the House of Representatives*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Democratic Party . . . . .	242 (− 34)
Republican Party . . . . .	192 (+ 33)
Others . . . . .	1 (+ 1)
	435

2. *Distribution of Seats in the Senate*

Political Group	Number of Seats won in 1980 Elections	Total Number of Seats
Republican Party . . . . .	22	53 (+ 12)
Democratic Party . . . . .	12	46 (− 12)
Others . . . . .	—	1 (=)
	34	100

*3. Distribution of Members of Congress according  
to Professional Category*

	Senate	House of Representatives
Lawyers . . . . .	57	186
Businessmen . . . . .	23	117
Educators . . . . .	5	42
Farmers, ranchers . . . . .	5	20
Journalists . . . . .	2	16
Astronauts . . . . .	2	—
Public officials . . . . .	—	29
Congressional aides . . . . .	—	8
Doctors, dentists . . . . .	—	3
Clergymen . . . . .	—	3
Others . . . . .	6	11
	100	435

*4. Distribution of Members of Congress according to Sex*

	Senate	House of Representatives
Men . . . . .	98	416
Women . . . . .	2	19
	100	435

*5. Average Age of Members of Congress*

Senate . . . . .	52.5 years
House of Representatives . . . . .	<u>48.4 years</u>
Overall average:	49.2 years





## VIET NAM

**Date of Elections:** 26 April 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament under the new Constitution and Electoral Law adopted in December 1980, as well as pursuant to decrees adopted in February 1981\*. In anticipation of these developments, the National Assembly elected in April 1976 had, in December 1979, voted to extend its term of office by one year.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the National Assembly, comprises 496 members elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Vietnamese citizens at least 18 years old are entitled to vote, with the exception of the insane and persons deprived of this right by law or court decision.

Electoral registers are revised before each election. Voting is not compulsory. Persons confined to hospitals or to their homes because of illness or paralysis are permitted to vote in their place of confinement.

All qualified electors at least 21 years of age are eligible for election to the National Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is not deemed incompatible with any other function or office. Candidates appear on lists presented by the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

Deputies are elected in 93 constituencies on the basis of absolute majority, with each elector voting for as many candidates as there are seats to be filled in his constituency and crossing out names of those listed on the ballot paper whom he does not favour. If, within a constituency, not enough candidates to fill the available seats obtain an absolute majority of the valid votes cast on the first ballot, or if less than half of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second ballot is held within 15 days.

By-elections are held to fill seats of the Assembly which become vacant between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

On 18 December 1980, the National Assembly adopted a new Constitution\* to replace that of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam of 1959, which had been in force throughout the country since the reunification of Viet Nam in 1976. A new Electoral Law was

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 30-31.

promulgated the same month and, in February 1981, decrees adopted by the Standing Committee of the Assembly fixed, *inter alia*, the number of Deputies at 496\*.

Candidates for the 496 Assembly seats totalled 614. In accordance with the Electoral Law, they were nominated by the Viet Nam Fatherland Front “on the basis of consultation with the local collectives of the working people and with political parties and mass organizations”. This Front is a mass political organization aiming at national unity and the building of socialism; it embraces the Communist Party of Viet Nam (formerly the Viet Nam Workers’ Party), other parties, trade unions and peasants’, youth and women’ organizations.

Subsequent to polling day, the Election Committee reported a nationwide voter turnout of nearly 98%. At its first session, the new Assembly elected the Council of State, the country’s collective presidency, from among its members and also selected the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister is Mr. Phan van Dong.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the National Assembly*

Voters . . . . .	97.96%
Valid votes . . . . .	97.78%

Political Group	Number of Seats
Viet Nam Fatherland Front . . . . .	496

2. *Distribution of Deputies according  
to Professional Category*

Political officials. . . . .	121
Intellectuals. . . . .	110
Workers . . . . .	100
Peasants . . . . .	92
Members of the armed forces . . . . .	49
Democratic and religious personalities . . . . .	15
Craftsmen . . . . .	9
	<hr/> 496

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 30-31.

3. *Distributing of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	388
Women . . . . .	108
	<hr/>
	496

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

23-35 years . . . . .	90
36 and over. . . . .	406
	<hr/>
	496





## **SÃO TOME AND PRINCIPE**

**Date of Elections:** 12 May 1980

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament in the first such poll since the country attained independence in July 1975.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of São Tome and Principe, the National People's Assembly, is composed of 40 members elected for 4 years. It comprises the Political Bureau of the Movement for the Liberation of São Tome and Principe (MLSTP — the country's only legally recognized political group), members of the Government, 13 representatives of the Area Committees, 2 representatives of the Women's Organization, 2 representatives of the Youth Organization and 5 private citizens. All parliamentary candidates are nominated by the MLSTP.



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE CIDP

Unless otherwise indicated, the publications listed below are obtainable from the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Place du Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva (Switzerland).

**PARLIAMENTS OF THE WORLD: A Reference Compendium.** A comparative study of 56 Parliaments in a series of 70 tables preceded by explanatory texts. Pp. 985. (London, The Macmillan Press Ltd., 1976). French edition of 881 pages published by Presses universitaires de France, Paris. On sale in bookshops and, for members of the Union, at the Inter-Parliamentary Secretariat, at the reduced price of Sw. Fr. 105.—. English version out of print.

### SERIES "REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS"

**Nos. 1, 2 and 3 out of print**

**No. 4 The Member of Parliament: His Requirements for Information in the Modern World**

Volume I: Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 3rd Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 18 to 20 January 1973. Pp. 329.

Volume II: *Synthesis of the Inquiry on the MP's Means of Information*. Geneva, 1973. Pp. 128\*.

Both volumes. . . . . Sw. Fr. 25.—

**No. 5 Who Legislates in the Modern World?**

Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 4th Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 29 to 31 January 1976. Pp. 281 . . . . . » 22.—

**No. 6 Provisions for the Information of Members of Parliament concerning the Activities of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies**

Findings of an Inquiry. Geneva, 1977. Pp. 45\*. . . . . » 7.—

**No. 7 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments**

Bilingual. Geneva, 1978. Pp. 440. . . . . » 35.—

**No. 8 Parliaments and the United Nations**

Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 5th Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 1978. Pp. 252 . . . . . » 23.—

**No. 9 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments – Volume II (1977-1979)**

Bilingual. Geneva, 1980. Pp. 290. . . . . » 27.—

### CHRONICLE OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS\*\*

I. *1 July 1966 - 30 June 1967*.  
Bilingual edition (French-English) . . . . . » 7.—

II. *1 July 1967 - 30 June 1978\**. . . . . » 10.—

III. *1 July 1968 - 30 June 1969\**. . . . . » 15.—

IV. *(1 July 1969 - 30 June 1970) to XV (1 July 1980 - 30 June 1981)\**. . . . . » 30.—

\* French edition also available.

\*\* Prior to volume XII (1977-1978), this work was entitled "Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections".







*INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION*

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CHRONICLE OF  
PARLIAMENTARY  
ELECTIONS AND  
DEVELOPMENTS

1 July 1981 - 30 June 1982

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XVI

# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

## AIMS

The Inter-Parliamentary Union brings together Parliaments on a world-wide level.

The aim of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is to promote personal contacts between members of all Parliaments and to unite them in common action to secure and maintain the full participation of their respective States in the establishment and development of democratic institutions and in the advancement of international peace and co-operation.

In pursuit of this objective, the Union makes known its views on all international problems suitable for settlement by parliamentary action and puts forward suggestions for the development of parliamentary assemblies with a view to improving the working of those institutions and increasing their prestige.

## MEMBERSHIP

National Groups currently exist in the Parliaments of 98 countries.

## STRUCTURE

The organs of the Union are:

1. *The Inter-Parliamentary Conference*, which meets once a year.

2. *The Inter-Parliamentary Council*, composed of two members from each affiliated Group.  
President: Mr. Johannes Virolainen (Finland).

3. *The Executive Committee*, composed of eleven members, ten of whom are elected by the Conference, the Council President acting as *ex-officio* Chairman.

4. *The Secretariat*, with headquarters in Geneva, Place du Petit-Saconnex.  
Secretary General: Mr. Pio-Carlo Terenzio (Italy).

## INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY DOCUMENTATION (CIDP)

The essential aim of the International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation (CIDP), created in 1965, is to enable the Inter-Parliamentary Union to carry out one of its statutory missions, to work for «the development of parliamentary institutions, with a view to improving the working of those institutions and increasing their prestige.»

It contributes to the accomplishment of these objectives:

— By systematically collecting and distributing information on the structure and working of national legislative assemblies in all independent States, as well as on the status of their members;

— By encouraging a comparative study of representative institutions, with their special characteristics and problems, as well as of possible practical solutions to the latter;

— By attempting to help the assemblies of developing countries to strengthen their infrastructures.

The CIDP is a department of the Secretariat. Its activities and financing are included by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in the Union's Work Programme and Budget, in the light of recommendations made by a Consultative Committee of Experts.

To accomplish its tasks, the CIDP benefits from the collaboration of some 105 national correspondents.

*INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION*

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CHRONICLE OF  
PARLIAMENTARY  
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1 July 1981 - 30 June 1982

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XVI

International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation (CIDP)

GENEVA, 1982





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## INTRODUCTION

This issue of the *Chronicle* is the sixteenth in the series published by the International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation (CIDP) of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and covers the period from 1 July 1981 to 30 June 1982.

The book consists of two main sections, each divided by country.

The first section outlines the new legal provisions and political events which have affected the organization, power or method of operation of certain Parliaments.

The second section provides detailed analyses of 36 legislative elections which were held in independent countries during the period under review. Information is given therein on the electoral systems, the results of the voting and distribution of seats, as well as on the general background against which each reported election took place. In certain cases, some gaps remain, especially with regard to statistical data which the CIDP was unable to obtain in due time.

The present *Chronicle* also contains, in addendum, information which supplements that given in the preceding volume (XV).

As in the past, the accounts of the elections are printed on easily detachable stiff-paper pages for use as index cards that can be added to those of previous *Chronicles*.

Needless to say, the CIDP could not have compiled all this information without the collaboration of its national correspondents, who replied to questionnaires and sent up-to-date legal texts and other documentation serving to render an accurate account of the special features of the electoral system of their countries. The CIDP wishes to express its gratitude to all of these persons as well as to diplomatic services, academics and other people around the world who have contributed to the preparation of the sixteenth *Chronicle*.

Lastly, the CIDP wishes to thank in advance all persons making use of the contents of the *Chronicle* for their acknowledgement of this publication as a reference source.





# I

## PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD

(1 July 1981 – 30 June 1982)

During the period covered by this volume, the adoption of new constitutional, legislative or statutory provisions by many countries, as well as certain political events, have had an effect on national representative institutions and on the status of their members. The major changes in the organization, composition, functioning and powers of legislative assemblies in independent countries that have come to the knowledge of the CIDP are briefly set out below. In this connection, it should be noted that the breadth and accuracy of the information given on each country depends not only on the CIDP's own research efforts but, to a great extent, on the data provided by its national correspondents.

Algeria

*Remuneration of MPs:* Pursuant to Decree No. 82-116 of 27 March 1982, the monthly salary of members of the People's National Assembly was fixed at 1,000 *dinars*. The following complementary monthly allowances are granted to the Vice-President of the Assembly and to members with committee duties:

Vice-President of the People's National	
Assembly . . . . .	1250 <i>dinars</i>
Chairman of a committee . . . . .	1000 »
Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of a committee . . . . .	750 »
Member of a committee . . . . .	500 »

*Amendment of Rules of Procedure:* Law No. 82-07 of 17 April 1982 amended Articles 57, 62 and 64 found in Law No. 77-01 of 15 August 1977. As a result, the permanent committees of the People's National Assembly were reduced from eight to five, the economic committee being entrusted with the formerly-distinct fields related to agriculture and town and country planning, while the committee on education and culture and that dealing with social affairs were merged into one.

Antigua

*Independence:* The former British colony of Antigua attained full independence on 1 November 1981, under the name of Antigua and Barbuda. According to the Constitution of the new State which came into force the same day, the bicameral Parliament comprises an elected House of Representatives and an appointed Senate. It has a normal term of five years and the minimum age of members is 21 years.

The House and Senate currently each have 17 members. Representatives are directly elected from single-member constituencies. Senators are appointed by the Governor-General, 11 on the advice of the Prime Minister (one of whom must be an inhabitant of Barbuda), four on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, one at his own discretion and one on the advice of the Barbuda Council. The Attorney-General, if not otherwise a member of the House, is an *ex-officio* member thereof but does not have the right to vote.

General House elections were last held in April 1980, when the Antigua Labour Party (ALP) won 13 of the seats.

Among its powers, Parliament may alter any of the provisions of the Constitution. Money bills can be introduced only in the House of Representatives; other bills can be introduced in either House. To become law, bills must be assented to by the Governor-General, who exercises executive authority on behalf of the British sovereign. The Governor-General also appoints the Prime Minister and other Ministers on the advice of the former.

*Remuneration of MPs:* Increases in salaries of members of both Houses of Parliament were announced in early 1982. The Prime Minister's salary will increase from \$ 3,000 to \$ 4,500 a month, and his deputy's from \$ 2,000 to \$ 3,500. Ministers will receive \$ 3,000 a month, while the Leader of the Opposition's salary will increase from \$ 1,000 to \$ 2,500.

## **Austria**

*Ombudsmen:* In Austria, three Ombudsmen are selected by the National Council (Lower House) and submit an annual report to Parliament. Pursuant to a constitutional amendment, a provision on this subject has been incorporated in the Constitution Act on 1 July 1981, with effect from 1 August 1981.

## **Bahamas**

*Number of Members of the House of Assembly:* In view of the general elections scheduled for 10 June 1982\*, the number of members of the House of Assembly was raised from 38 to 43 prior to the elections.

## **Bangladesh**

*Dissolution of Parliament:* Parliament was dissolved and the Constitution suspended following a military coup d'Etat on 24 March 1982. The country was placed under martial law. It was announced that the armed forces had taken over "to save the country and the nation from a social, administrative and economic breakdown" and that new elections would be held "as soon as possible". On 26 March, Lt. General Hossain Mohammad Ershad, the Chief of Army Staff, nominated Mr. Abul Fazal Mohammad Ahsanuddin, a retired Supreme Court judge, as President of the Republic. Under a further decree announced on 12 April, Gen. Ershad assumed full executive and legislative powers.

## **Belgium**

*Lowering of Voting Age:* On 28 July 1981, Parliament adopted an amendment to Article 47 of the Constitution by deciding to lower the voting age of Belgian citizens in national and provincial elections from 21 to 18 years, with immediate effect. This reduction thus applied to the general elections of 8 November 1981\*\*.

## **Belize**

*Independence:* The Central American territory of Belize (formerly British Honduras) became fully independent from Britain on 21 September 1981. The Constitution which came into effect the same day stipulated that Belize was a constitutional monarchy, executive authority being vested in the British sovereign and exercisable by a Governor-General.

Legislative power is vested in the bicameral National Assembly, comprising an appointed Senate of eight members and an elected House of Representatives of 18 members. Parliament has a normal term of five years and all members must be 18-year-old citizens. Legislation

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 29.

\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 31.



must be passed by the National Assembly as a whole. Money bills can be introduced only in the House, while other bills can be introduced in either the House or Senate.

In the last House elections of 21 November 1979, the People's United Party (PUP) won 13 and the United Democratic Party five of the 18 seats.

The Constitution moreover provides that the Governor-General appoints the Prime Minister and, on the latter's recommendation, other Ministers from among parliamentarians. The Cabinet is responsible to the House of Representatives.

## Botswana

*Amendment to the Electoral Act:* Adopted by the National Assembly on 4 December 1981 and assented to on 21 January 1982, the *Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1981*, amends Section 60 of the Act to facilitate voting by election and police officers who are not assigned to the polling station where registered as electors.

*Remuneration of MPs:* Retroactive as from 1 August 1981, the *National Assembly (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1981*, was assented to on 21 January 1982. It fixes, *inter alia*, ordinary members' pay at 8,868 pula per year.

## Brazil

*Constitutional amendment:* Constitutional amendment No. 19 of 6 August 1981 amended Article 151 of the Constitution by increasing the period prior to general elections in which certain candidates to Parliament whose professions are deemed incompatible with membership must resign their posts. Thus, Ministers, Governors and Secretaries of State must so resign six months before the polling date, while nine months apply to officials of the public administration.

## Burma

*Number of Members of Parliament:* In view of the general elections scheduled for October 1981\*, the number of members of the People's Assembly – Burma's unicameral Parliament – was raised from 464 to 475 prior to the poll.

## Burundi

*New Constitution:* On 18 November 1981, a new Constitution was adopted by national referendum; it replaced the Constitution of July 1974, which had been suspended since 1976.

The new text established the Union for National Progress (UPRONA – *Union pour le Progrès national*) as the country's sole legal political party. The President of the Party is the sole candidate for Head of State. Both the Head of State and the National Assembly, which is to hold legislative power, are elected for a term of five years by direct universal suffrage. Assembly elections are foreseen for October 1982.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 37.

## Canada

*1982 Constitution Act:* On 17 April 1982, the British sovereign signed a proclamation which brought into effect Canada's new *Constitution Act 1982*. The Act is not a new Constitution; the *British North America Act 1867* (renamed the *Constitution Act 1867*), as well as other important laws bearing on constitutional matters, remained in force and were incorporated in the 1982 Act. What is new and most significant in the Act is the portion which contains provisions on an amending procedure ensuring that all changes to the Constitution could henceforth be made in Canada exclusively, and not in Britain.

*Amendment to the Elections Act:* On 10 May 1982, the House of Commons passed Bill C-58, An Act to Amend the *Canada Elections Act*. This legislation has the effect of shortening the duration of federal election campaigns from approximately 60 days to a maximum of 50 days. Bill C-58 was ratified by the Senate and given Royal Assent on 3 June 1982.

*Amendments to the Rules of the Senate:* Recommendations to amend various Rules of the Senate were ratified by the latter on 9 June 1982. Rules 10 and 66 were amended on the basis of a report of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee, which endorsed the idea of a Speaker *pro tempore* nominated for each session by the Senate's Committee of Selection to preside in case of unavoidable absence of the Speaker. A new paragraph (3) to Rule 49 (on "Voting") specifically provides for three possible actions during a vote in the Senate: a vote of yea, a vote of nay or an abstention.

*Remuneration of MPs:* As a direct result of the 28 June 1982 federal budget, MPs cut back their salaries in line with the Government's anti-inflationary wage restraint policy. Bill C-124, the *Public Sector Compensation Restraint Act*, imposes an immediate reduction of Members' salaries from the 11% raise allocated 1 January 1982 to 6% as of 1 July 1982. As a result, Members' revised salaries as of 1 July 1982 were C\$ 46,400.

## Djibouti

*Electoral Law:* In view of the general elections scheduled for May 1982\*, Organic Law No. 2/AN/81 of 19 October 1981 was passed to provide rules for the election of members of the National Assembly which had previously been formed prior to independence in June 1977.

This Law, *inter alia*, stipulates that the Assembly's 65 members are elected for five years by a party-list simple majority system, the number of candidates being equivalent to the number of parliamentary seats to be filled and the country as a whole forming a single constituency. The *Rassemblement populaire pour le Progrès* (RPP) is institutionalized as the country's sole legal party and is alone entitled to nominate candidates. Citizens who are qualified electors and at least 23 years of age are eligible for election to the National Assembly.

## Finland

*Pension and unemployment benefits of MPs:* In June 1982, the pension and unemployment benefits of MPs were improved. Members are now entitled to have full pension (66% of their

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 55.

salary) after 15 years (instead of 20 years) and to have a partial pension after seven years in Parliament in case they are not re-elected and unable to find a job.

## France

*Senators representing French citizens residing abroad:* French citizens living outside France are currently represented by six Senators who are co-opted by the Senate on the basis of nominations made by the Supreme Council of the French Abroad (*Conseil supérieur des Français de l'étranger*). Law No. 82-471 of 7 June 1982 was promulgated to regulate the election of this Council.

The *Conseil supérieur* is composed of members elected directly for three years by Frenchmen residing abroad who are at least 18 years old and duly registered at the French consulate having jurisdiction over them (military personnel must have been so registered for a minimum of one year). Candidates for the *Conseil* cannot in the same constituency be diplomatic agents or persons having a connection with diplomatic missions. Voting is according to a proportional representation list system, each list bearing at least two names more than seats to be filled; in constituencies having only one seat, simple majority applies. Vacancies are filled by the "next-in-line" candidate or elected substitute according to whether a list or simple majority seat is at issue.

## Gabon

*Constitutional amendments:* On 22 August 1981, a series of constitutional amendments were promulgated. As regards the National Assembly specifically, Articles 45, 46, 48 and 51 were modified.

Article 45 now provides that the Government, for the implementation of its programme, may ask the National Assembly for authorization to take by ordinance, in the interval between parliamentary session, measures which are normally in the sphere of law. These ordinances shall enter into force on publication; they must be submitted for ratification by the National Assembly at the latter's next session. Once ratified, such ordinances can only be modified by law.

Article 46 now provides that the initiative for laws is vested concurrently in the Government and the Deputies. Private members' bills are presented to the Bureau of the National Assembly and transmitted, for opinion, to the Government, which in turn refers the matter to the Supreme Court. The Government is required to give its opinion no later than the session which follows the date of presentation. In the event of an unfavourable Government opinion, and if the bill is not otherwise struck down, its author may ask the National Assembly directly for an examination of its text at the Assembly's current or next session.

Article 48 has been modified to provide that the President of the Republic or the President of the National Assembly may declare a Government bill, private bill or amendment inadmissible under certain conditions. In the event of disagreement, the Supreme Court, at the request of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister or the President of the National Assembly, shall rule within eight days.

Article 51 has been changed to provide that ratification of ordinances and motions of censure are other means of Assembly oversight of the Government; the Article further



stipulates that the Assembly's Rules of Procedure govern the organization and functioning of parliamentary committees of inquiry.

### Germany (Federal Republic of)

*Amendment of Rules of Procedure:* Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the *Bundestag*, promulgated on 17 March 1982, relate to Sections 7 and 80 of the Rules concerning the staff of the "Defense Commissioner" of the *Bundestag* and the *Bundestag* procedure on government reports. Specifically, the rights of the Defense Commissioner vis-à-vis his staff (who are also *Bundestag* staff) are now clearly spelled out; as to government reports, whether *Bundestag* committees report on them to the House as a whole depends on whether these government reports are to be acted upon or simply taken note of.

### Ghana

*Dissolution of Parliament:* Following a military coup d'Etat which took place on 31 December 1981, Parliament was dissolved and the 1979 Constitution suspended. A seven-man Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), headed by Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings, was then formed as the overall administrative organ of the State. On 21 January 1982, the PNDC – which had a mixed military and civilian membership – appointed civilians as Secretaries responsible for ministerial portfolios.

### Greece

*Amendment of the Electoral Code:* Article 34, paragraph 6 of the Electoral Code, which fixes the number of names figuring on party lists of candidates, was modified to provide that one additional candidate would be added to each party list in electoral constituencies having up to three seats, and that two additional candidates would be added to lists in constituencies entitled to more than three seats.

*Allowances of MPs:* In July 1981, the Chamber of Deputies decided that each of its members would henceforth have the right to place 750 interurban telephone calls per month free of charge (instead of the previous 500 calls); any calls beyond this number would be charged to the Deputy concerned.

### Guatemala

*Dissolution of Parliament:* Soon after the general elections of 7 March 1982\*, the national Congress was dissolved on 24 March after a coup d'Etat the previous day. The three-member military junta, headed by General Efraín Ríos Montt, which was formed to replace the elected executive and legislative branches also suspended the Constitution.

On 9 June, General Ríos Montt dissolved the junta and assumed sole executive and legislative functions as President of Guatemala.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 67.



## India

*Pension for ex-MPs:* Consequent on the passing of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Act, 1981, those ex-MPs whose service fell short of five years by not more than 60 days also became entitled to a minimum pension of Rs. 300/- p.m. with effect from 4 September 1981.

*Payment of dues to the heirs of MPs:* In order to facilitate prompt payment of dues to the legal heirs of a member of Parliament in the event of his death, a new Rule was inserted in the Members of Parliament (Travelling and Daily Allowances) Rules, 1957, whereby, with effect from 1 March 1982, every member of Parliament, as soon as he is elected or nominated to either House of Parliament, is required to lodge with the concerned Secretariat of Parliament a nomination in the prescribed form stating the particulars of the nominee who shall, in the event of his death, be entitled to receive the salary, additional facilities allowances, medical reimbursement claims and any other allowances payable to him and which remained unpaid at the time of his death.

*Panel of Vice-Chairmen:* By an amendment to Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the *Rajya Sabha*, the strength of the panel of Vice-Chairmen was increased from four to six.

*Number of Committees:* According to Rule 30 relating to the Business Advisory Committee and Rule 217 relating to the Committee on Rules, the Chairman of the *Rajya Sabha* is the Chairman of each of these Committees and the Deputy Chairman is not a member of either of these Committees. Both the Rules were amended whereby the Deputy Chairman was also made a member of these Committees and the strength of the Business Advisory Committee was raised from 10 to 11 members and that of the Committee on Rules from 15 to 16 members.

*Business Advisory Committee:* According to Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the *Rajya Sabha*, the Business Advisory Committee allocates time for government bills and other business but not for private members' business. The Rule was amended to empower the Committee to provide also for the allocation of time "for the discussion of stage or stages of Private Members' Bills & Resolutions".

*Committee on Papers Laid on the Table:* After Chapter XVIIIA, a new Chapter XVIIB (Rules 212 (H) to 212 (O)) was inserted in the *Rajya Sabha* Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business providing for the constitution of a Committee of Papers Laid on the Table on the pattern of the similar Committee in the *Lok Sabha*. In pursuance of this amendment to the Rules, a ten-member committee of the *Rajya Sabha* was duly constituted. It was inaugurated by the Chairman of the *Rajya Sabha* on 16 March 1982.

*Biennial Elections to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha):* Pursuant to Article 85 (1) of the Constitution, 73 sitting members of the *Rajya Sabha*, including four members nominated by the President of the Republic, became due for retirement on the expiry of their six-year term of office on 2 April 1982. 63 new members were elected to the *Rajya Sabha* during the biennial elections; 10 seats (4 nominated, 3 from Kerala, 2 from Assam and 1 from Delhi) remained to be filled.

The resulting strength of the political parties represented in the *Rajya Sabha* was as follows:

Political Party/Group	Total Number of Seats
Congress (I) . . . . .	120
Janata Party . . . . .	15
Communist Party of India (Marxist) . . . . .	15
Lok Dal . . . . .	14
Bharatiya Janata Party . . . . .	14
A.I.A.D.M.K.. . . . .	9
Congress (S) . . . . .	5
Communist Party of India . . . . .	5
Other parties . . . . .	23
Independents . . . . .	8
Nominated . . . . .	5
Vacancies . . . . .	11
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## Ireland

*Electoral Law:* The Electoral Law was amended by the enactment of the Prevention of Electoral Abuses Act, 1982. The Act aimed at closing a loophole in the code relating to the offence of impersonation in voting.

*Remuneration of MPs:* With effect from 1 June 1981, the allowance of members of *Dáil Éireann* has been raised to £ 13,802 a year and that of members of *Seanad Éireann* to £ 7,619 a year.

## Israel

*Financing of Political Parties:* By an amending law adopted by the *Knesset* on 3 March 1982, detailed provisions were made for the financing of election expenditures by political parties. For meeting its election expenses, a party may now raise from non-State sources an amount equal to its allocation from the Treasury (instead of half the amount of the allocation, as provided earlier). The basis for State funding of a party's election campaign will be its group strength either in the outgoing or newly-elected *Knesset*, whichever is greater. Earlier, strength in the new *Knesset* was the basis in all cases. The receipt of contributions from foreign corporate bodies, as well as from such bodies at home, is prohibited from a date to be fixed by the *Knesset's* Finance Committee. Election expenditures of party affiliates are to be counted as those of the party from a date to be fixed by the Finance Committee. A sliding scale of forfeits by overspending parties is applied instead of the earlier flat 15% forfeit. Finally, persons making false declarations about party income or expenditures shall be liable to pay penalties.

*Laying of the Budget:* By an amendment adopted by the *Knesset* on 24 May 1982, a provision has been made in the "Basic Law: The State Economy" requiring the Government to lay the annual State budget bill on the table of the *Knesset* at least 60 days before the beginning of the financial year.

## Italy

*Amendment of Rules of Procedure:* The Rules of Procedure of both the Senate and Chamber of Deputies were amended during the period under review. The Senate amendment approved in March 1982, concerns a modification of the procedure relating to the conversion into law of decree-laws (Article 78). The Rules of the Chamber of Deputies now include a similar provision pertaining to conversion by the Chamber (Article 96bis). Amended paragraph (6) to Article 39 on debate in plenary provides that the time-limit of 45 minutes for general debate on bills or motions may be doubled for constitutional bills, bills on electoral matters and bills on matters of legislative delegation. Other changes concern rules regarding speaking rights and discussion on individual articles of bills and amendments thereto (Article 85); and Articles 23 and 24 of Chapter VI, entitled "Organization of the Chamber and Committees: Business and Order of the Day".

*Financing of Political Parties:* Law No. 659 of 18 November 1981 modified Law No. 195 of 2 May 1974 on the subject of the State's contribution to the financing of political parties. The new Law contains generally stricter rules regarding such contributions and the drawing up of each party's budget. Article 4 of the Law requires a public declaration in the case of any contribution exceeding 5,000,000 lire.

*Financial situation of parliamentarians:* Law No. 441 of 5 July 1982 requires publicity on the financial situation of holders of elective office or directors of certain bodies. Under the terms of the Law, Senators and Deputies must, *inter alia*, make a detailed declaration of their revenues, property holdings and election campaign expenses.

## Ivory Coast

*Committees:* The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly were amended to provide for a fourth permanent committee, called "Committee on External Relations" (*Commission des relations extérieures*). Article 10 of the Rules now lists it alongside the Committee on General and Institutional Affairs, the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, and the Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs. The new Committee's fields of competence are defined as including inter-parliamentary relations, international co-operation, foreign affairs, and international conferences. All four Committees have the same number of members.

Apart from these Committees, two special committees have been established: the research, studies and information committee, concerned with means of information and documentation for Deputies, and the conciliation committee, to settle possible litigation between members of the National Assembly.

## Japan

*Budget Committee:* The House of Councillors approved rules concerning revision of a part of the Rules of the House on 3 March 1982, at the Diet's 96th session. The revision widens the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee and authorizes it to refer parts of the Budget to any other relevant committee, thus enabling all members of the House to take part in the



budget deliberations. When it deems it specially necessary, the Committee on Budget may consider the total budget even if it is within the time-limit set for consideration by committees of parts of the budget coming under their respective jurisdictions.

## Liechtenstein

*Remuneration of MPs:* An amendment to Article 61 of the 1921 Constitution, adopted on 17 December 1981, provides that members of the *Landtag* (Diet) are to receive from the State Treasury allowances and travelling expenses, as may be prescribed by law. The amendment was to come into effect as from 1 February 1982.

A new law, adopted the same day – 17 December 1981 – as the constitutional amendment, provides that each member shall receive Sw.Fr. 170 per day (or Sw.Fr. 120 per half-day) for attending the Diet plenary sessions or committee meetings. In addition, each member shall receive a fixed sum of Sw.Fr. 1,000 per year for preparatory work and miscellaneous expenses (Sw.Fr. 500 for substitute members). The President and Vice-President of the *Landtag* receive a supplementary allowance of Sw.Fr. 6,000 and 3,000 per year, respectively, for special expenses connected with their office.

The new law furthermore provides for travelling allowance in case of domestic travel to the capital and various allowances for attendance at working sessions of international parliamentary organizations, conferences and other similar meetings held abroad.

## Malawi

*Members' salaries:* Salaries of members of Parliament were adjusted from MK 3,360 per annum to MK 3,864 per annum. In addition to salary, members also receive a constituency allowance of MK 1,932 per annum.

## Malta

*Electoral Laws:* Two amending Acts passed during the period under review made substantial modifications in the existing electoral laws. They received the President's assent on 20 July 1981. *The Electoral (Franchise, Method of Election and Registration of Voters) Amendment) Act, 1981* amended further the *Electoral (Franchise, Method of Election and Registration of Voters) Ordinance, Cap. 157* in regard to the compilation and publication of the electoral register and procedure for corrections therein. The *Electoral (Polling) Amendment) Act, 1981* amended another ordinance – the *Electoral (Polling) Ordinance, Cap. 163*. It defined the term “voting document” which replaced the “notice to voters”. It also modified provisions regarding nomination of candidates, polling places and polling time, voting procedure, sealing and delivery of ballot boxes and unused or spoilt ballot papers, etc. By a new section added to the principal Act, the amendment provided for the prohibition of display of posters, etc., at any public place.

*Remuneration of MPs:* The current salary payable to an MP in Malta is £M 2,486 per annum. The Speaker gets a salary of £M 2,900 and an entertainment allowance of £M 600.



The Ministers get a salary of £M 5,086, the Deputy Speaker £M 2,620 and the Leader of the Opposition £M 2,842 (plus secretarial allowance of £M 1,000). The Prime Minister draws a salary of £M 6,106 and an entertainment allowance of £M 1,650 per annum.

## New Zealand

*Electoral Law Amendment:* The *Electoral Amendment Act 1981*, adopted by the General Assembly of New Zealand on 23 October 1981, sought to amend further the principal *Electoral Act 1956*. The amendments, *inter alia*, covered matters like the registration of electors, revision of electoral rolls, classification of electoral districts, Maori representation, qualifications of candidates and members, disqualifying members from being State servants, election expenses, etc.

*Remuneration of MPs:* The *Parliamentary Salaries Determination 1982* revoked the earlier 1980 Determinations and, as from 10 November 1981, provided for a 9.2% increase in the parliamentary salaries while retaining the allowances at the erstwhile level. The revised salary for each member of the House of Representatives is NZ\$ 32,271 per year. The Speaker is to receive NZ\$ 51,161 and a committee chairman NZ\$ 44,134. The Leader of the Opposition is to get the same salary as a Minister of the Crown holding a portfolio (other than Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister), i.e. NZ\$ 55,115 per year. The salaries of Chief Government and Chief Opposition Whips were fixed at NZ\$ 39,300 per year for each while the Junior Government and Opposition Whips were each to receive NZ\$ 36,665. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister's annual salaries were put at NZ\$ 79,717 and NZ\$ 62,146, respectively.

## Oman

*Appointment of Consultative Council:* On 18 October 1981, the Head of State, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, issued a decree providing for the establishment of a consultative assembly. This body is officially known as "The Consultative Council for the State" (*Majlis Istichar al-Lidovla*). Appointed on 19 October for two years, its 45 members – who must be Omani citizens of at least 30 years of age – belong to the following categories: 17 government officials, 11 private sector and 17 regional representatives. The Council is to meet at least four times a year.

At the Council's opening session on 3 November, Sultan Qaboos stated that its task would be, *inter alia*, "expressing views and giving advice on the general economic and social policies of the country" and acting as "a framework for the joint efforts of the two sectors: governmental and national". Legislation is by decree of the Head of the State.

## Philippines

*Rules of Procedure:* Major revisions in the Rules of Procedure of the *Batasang Pambansa* (Parliament of the Philippines) were adopted on 26 August 1981 to reflect the constitutional amendments which had come into force on 11 April 1981.

Under the revised Rules, the President of the Republic shall no longer be a member of Parliament. Regular elections shall be held every six years. Parliament shall determine the duration of its session every year. The Prime Minister shall be the head of the Cabinet and shall be elected by Parliament upon nomination by the President. He and the Cabinet shall

be responsible to Parliament. The revised Rules also provide for a Speaker *pro tempore* to assume the Speaker's powers and duties in case of his absence, etc. The Secretary of Parliament shall now be known as Secretary-General. There shall be 30 standing committees. The revised Rules contain a separate provision on constitutional amendments: these can be passed under the same procedure as applicable to bills and the Parliament can also decide to convert itself into a constituent assembly.

On 7 and 14 December 1981, detailed Rules of Procedure for Impeachment Proceedings and Concurrence to Treaties were approved by Parliament. By a resolution adopted on 27 January 1982, Rule XII relating to the Question Hour was also amended.

*Impeachment:* The Rules of Procedure in Impeachment Proceedings shall apply in all proceedings for the impeachment of the President, the members of the Supreme Court, the members of the Constitutional Commissions and other impeachable officers. A complaint may be filed by any citizen of Philippines. After the Committee on Justice, Human Rights and Good Government has considered the matter and reached the conclusion that the facts alleged constitute a legal ground for impeachment under the Constitution, necessary proceedings would be started. Each party would get an opportunity to present evidence and the Committee may compel attendance of witnesses and production of papers. In the case of a resolution of impeachment filed by at least one-fifth of all the members of the *Batasang*, the Committee shall only determine whether the resolution is in order and report to the House. A vote of at least one-fifth of all the members shall be necessary for the impeachment trial to proceed. During the trial the respondent would be given an opportunity to appear in person or through his agent or attorney and to have counsel of his choice in addition to the members of a defence panel to be designated by the Committee on Justice, Human Rights and Good Government. For sustaining an impeachment, a vote of two-thirds of all the members of the *Batasang* upon each of the articles of impeachment shall be essential. Judgements in cases of impeachment shall be limited to removal from office and disqualification to hold any other office of honour, trust or profit under the Republic of Philippines, but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to further prosecution, trial and punishment, in accordance with law.

*Ratification of treaties:* The Rules of Procedure to govern the concurrence to treaties by the *Batasang Pambansa* provide for the reference of the treaty by the House, after first reading, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The Committee shall report the action proposed by it by means of a resolution of concurrence. The resolution of concurrence as approved on second reading and a copy of the treaty shall be distributed to members as a bill on third reading. A simple majority vote would be required for the approval of the resolution. If the President certifies the urgency in any case, or if two-thirds of all the members of the *Batasang* so decide, the necessary resolution of concurrence may be considered and voted in one day.

*Questions:* The latest amendments in the Question Procedure provide that on Thursdays of every week, or as often as may be determined by the Speaker or a majority of the *Batasang Pambansa*, there shall be a Question Hour during which the Prime Minister or any other Minister may be required to appear and answer questions and interpellations. Written questions shall be submitted to the Speaker at least three days before a scheduled question hour. If the Speaker accepts a question, he shall schedule it within 30 days and indicate the time and date when the question "shall have to be answered" by the Prime Minister or Minister concerned. Supplementary oral questions shall be allowed. Also, the proponent of the original question may make interpellations on the Minister's statement.



## Poland

*Constitutional amendments:* Article 33 of the Constitution was amended on 26 March 1982. This amendment introduced the notion of a Constitutional Court and a State Court in Chapter 4 of the Constitution.

According to the new Article 33 (a), the Constitutional Court rules on the constitutionality of laws and other normative acts of the central State organs (formerly the task of the Council of State).

Decisions concluding the unconstitutionality of laws, as opposed to other normative acts are submitted to the Diet for deliberation. Members of the Constitutional Court are elected by the Diet from among persons with renowned legal knowledge; once elected, they have a wholly independent status and are bound only by the Constitution.

New Article 33 (b) provides for a State Court, which is to rule on the liability of persons holding the highest State posts in cases of violation of the Constitution or other laws in connection with the carrying out of official duties; this may include liability for criminal acts.

Members of the State Court are elected by the Diet from among persons who are not then Deputies; they have an independent status and are solely bound by the laws of the country.

*Amendment of Rules of Procedure:* Pursuant to Resolution of 25 September 1981, the Diet created a new permanent committee called "Committee for Self-Management of Salaried Employees of Enterprises". Its task is to analyze the functioning of such self-management particularly in relation to State enterprises, and to submit periodic reports thereon to the Diet.

*Economic and Social Council:* By Resolution of 26 March 1982, the Diet created the "Economic and Social Council" as an advisory body to Parliament and its organs. This Council has a maximum of 120 members and comprises representatives of salaried employees in the industrial and agricultural sector, trade union and social organizations, artistic and scientific associations, etc. The President of the Council is appointed by the Diet from among its members.

## Rwanda

*Electoral Law:* Decree-Law No. 17/81 of 22 August 1981 introduced a new revised Electoral Law to replace that of 5 July 1967. This new text contains detailed provisions, *inter alia*, on the electoral roll, qualifications for electors, distribution of seats among candidates, the election process and counting of votes, qualifications for candidates and candidature requirements, and sanctions for electoral offences. The new Electoral Law was in force at the time of the general elections of 28 December 1981\*.

*Rules of Procedure:* On 12 February 1982, the newly-elected National Development Council adopted its first Rules of Procedure, which contain detailed provisions on the organization and working methods of the Council. Ordinary sessions of the Council last between 90 and 120 days; they commence on the third Tuesday in October and the third Tuesday in April. There are currently six permanent committees, dealing with political and administrative affairs, social affairs, scientific affairs, economic affairs, foreign affairs, and parliamentary work.

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 107.

## Senegal

*Electoral Law:* Organic Law No. 81-80 concerning the election of the President of the Republic and Deputies to the National Assembly was promulgated on 28 December 1981.

As regards the National Assembly, the Law stipulates that the number of Deputies is increased from 100 to 120 (Article 31). It also contains provisions on the submission of candidatures, the election campaign, the electoral process, counting of votes, proclamation of results and election disputes. According to Article 33, the electoral campaign opens 21 days prior to the polling date.

Organic Law No. 81-80 replaces relevant portions of the Electoral Code with contrary provisions and will be integrated in the same Code. Its stated objective is to put into practice Articles 27, 29 and 49 of the Constitution regarding, respectively, the legality of the election campaign and the polling for President of the Republic and National Assembly Deputies.

## Senegambia

*Confederation:* On 19 August 1981, it was announced that Senegal and the Gambia planned to merge into a new Confederation to be called "Senegambia". The merger agreement was approved by the countries' Parliaments in December 1981, and the Confederation officially came into being on 1 February 1982.

The Confederation is to be based on the integration of the armed and security forces, an economic and monetary union, co-ordination of policies in external relations, communications and other agreed-on fields, and joint institutions. Each of the Confederal States shall maintain its independence and sovereignty.

The terms of the merger provide for the following institutions: the President and Vice-President of the Confederation; the Council of Ministers of the Confederation; and the Confederal Parliament, one-third of whose 60 members are to be chosen by the Gambian House of Representatives and two-thirds by the Senegalese National Assembly.

## Sierra Leone

*Constitutional amendment:* In November 1981, Parliament approved a constitutional amendment to harmonize the country's Constitution with that of the ruling All People's Congress (APC) party. The amendment – which applied for the first time to the general elections of 1 May 1982\* – allows for primary elections in which voters choose between APC-selected candidates. It also permits civil servants, previously barred from running for Parliament, to stand provided they resign their jobs three months beforehand.

## South Africa

*Constitutional amendments:* The *Constitution Second Amendment Act, No. 101 of 1981*, and the *Constitution Amendment Act, No. 99 of 1982*, introduced a number of amendments, among which the following should be noted:

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 115.



- (a) Additional seat in the House of Assembly: Walvis Bay is henceforth to be a separate electoral division with a representative of its own in the House of Assembly (Section 6 of Act No. 99 of 1982). The total number of seats in the House of Assembly thereby increases to 178.
- (b) Disqualification from being a member: No person may become a member of the House of Assembly while in the service of certain institutions, including municipal and divisional council institutions (Section 3 of Act No. 99 of 1982).
- (c) Additional allowances for certain members: Members of the House of Assembly serving on various councils, boards, etc., may in future receive subsistence allowance, e.g. hotel expenses, for such services.

*Amendments to Electoral Act: The Elections Amendment Act, No. 104 of 1982:*

- (i) Brings the position as regards the registration of voters of the Coloured population group into line with that of the White population group.
- (ii) Provides for information to be obtained from the population register to keep the voters rolls of the White, Coloured and Indian population groups up to date; and
- (iii) Suspends for a period the coming into operation of the provisions of the *Electoral Act of 1979, No. 45 of 1979*, relating to the possession of identity documents.

*Amendments to Standing Orders:* On the recommendation of the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders, amendments to the House of Assembly Standing Orders 55, 75 and 76 were adopted. These changes concern reading of public bills and speaking-time limits for Ministers in debate on money bills.

*Remuneration of MPs:* House of Assembly members' emoluments currently amount to US\$ 17,204.40 per annum. In addition, they receive a non-taxable daily allowance of approximately US\$ 27.

## Spain

*Rules of Procedure:* On 10 February 1982, the Congress of Deputies adopted Rules of Procedure to replace the provisional Rules of 1977 and to put them in line with the provisions of the 1978 Constitution. Main headings of the new Rules concern the status of Deputies (their rights, privileges, immunities), a new chapter; parliamentary groups; the organization of the Congress; general provisions on Congress proceedings; legislative procedure (particularly new as regards organic laws, constitutional amendments, status of autonomy); control over government provisions having legal force (new); the granting of authority by Congress and other acts having direct juridical effect (consultative referendum, state of alarm or exception, etc.), also new; giving and taking away of confidence in the Government (new); interpellations and questions; "non-legal proposals", or motions; examination and debate of government communications, plans and other reports (new); proposals for election or nomination of certain people (e.g., Constitutional Court); and dispatching of day-to-day matters in the event of dissolution or expiry of the term office of the Congress of Deputies.

## Sri Lanka

*Electoral Laws:* The *Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981*, repealed Part I and Parts IV to VI of the *Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Order in Council, 1946*, and laid down the new procedure for the election of members of Parliament, the creation of offences relating

to such elections, the grounds for invalidating such elections, and where an election has been held void the manner of holding fresh elections, the manner of determination of disputed elections, and other connected matters.

The *Referendum Act No. 7 of 1981*, provided for the conduct of a referendum in terms of Chapter XIII of the Constitution.

*Pensions to ex-Members:* By the Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act, No. 1 of 1982, the Pension Scheme was extended to the widows of members, and also former Senators.

## Sudan

*Number of Members of Parliament:* Following premature dissolution in October 1981 of the People's Assembly that had been elected in April-May 1980, it was announced that the new Assembly would have less than half the number of members – 151 instead of the former 366. This new Assembly was elected in late 1981-early 1982\*.

The new Assembly has reduced powers, a number of them (such as in the areas of health, education and welfare) having devolved to five new regional people's assemblies, except in southern Sudan, which has had regional autonomy since 1972. This was part of a national plan to decentralize power in various sectors in accordance with the decision of the January-February 1980 congress of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU – the country's sole legal party) in favour of the division of the country into five new regions with their own governments and assemblies.

## Tunisia

*Number of Members of Parliament:* In view of the general elections scheduled for 1 November 1981\*\*, the number of members of the Chamber of Deputies was raised from 121 to 136 prior to the poll.

## Uganda

*Membership of Parliament:* In January 1982, seven members of Parliament belonging to the main opposition party – the Democratic Party – defected from their party to join the ruling party – Uganda People's Congress (UPC) – led by the President, Dr. Apollo Milton Obote. The members changing sides included the opposition Chief Whip and the Deputy Secretary General of the Democratic Party. Six of these had declared at a rally held by Dr. Obote on 2 January their "full agreement with the policies" of the UPC Government and joined the ruling party on the spot. One member of the Democratic Party was unseated following a successful election appeal by his UPC opponent during the 1980 elections. The party position in the Uganda National Assembly, as in June 1982, therefore was:

Uganda People's Congress (UPC)	. . . . .	80	seats
Democratic Party	. . . . .	42	»
Uganda Patriotic Movement	. . . . .	1	»
		<hr/>	
		123	»

\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 117.

\*\* See section *Chronicle of Elections*, p. 123.

As a sequel to the death of two members and the unseating of one member, by-elections were pending in three constituencies.

*Standing Orders:* The Standing Orders of the National Assembly were amended with a view to unseating members who failed to attend the meetings of the Assembly without the leave of the Speaker. The amended rule provided for vacation of seats by members who, after election, do not take oath within the first 30 sittings of the Assembly, do not attend at least one of any 30 consecutive sittings or are absent from Uganda for a continuous period of four months.

### United Arab Emirates

*Renewal of appointed Parliament:* On 28 December 1981, the 40 members of the Federal National Council, the Emirates' unicameral Parliament, were appointed on the expiry of the Council's normal term of two years. The members are appointed by the rulers of the seven Emirates and may not simultaneously be Ministers or hold public office.

### United States of America

*Senate Committees:* Rule XXV, the Senate's standing rule governing committees, was amended by Senate Resolution 101, 97th Congress, to change the status of the Committee on Small Business from a select committee to a standing committee. This change increased the number of standing committees to a total of 16.

The number of members of several committees was modified by Senate Resolutions 13, 24, and 76, 97th Congress, and the number of committees on which a member may serve was changed under certain specific circumstances by Senate Resolution 12, 97th Congress.

*Tax Deductions for Members of Congress:* Public Law 97-51, the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, signed on 1 October 1981, provided that Senators and Representatives may deduct from their income taxes business expenses incurred while in Washington. The Internal Revenue Service determined that members may deduct up to \$75 per day under this law. Public Law 97-51 repealed a provision enacted in 1952 under which members could deduct a maximum of \$3,000 for such business expenses.

*Remuneration of Members:* Public Law 97-51 also provided for an automatic annual cost-of-living salary increase for members equal to the raise given to most white-collar federal employees, thus eliminating the provision of a 1975 law which required an annual vote to appropriate funds for congressional pay raises.

Public Law 97-51 also removed the limit on the amount of money that Senators may earn by giving speeches and writing articles. Since 1976, Senators have been limited to a maximum of \$25,000 in honoraria income. This change is not applicable to members of the House of Representatives.

### Zambia

*Standing Orders:* An amendment made to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, 1980 edition, provided for the setting up of a new sessional committee of 10 members to be called the "Committee on Local Administration".

II

CHRONICLE OF ELECTIONS





## ALGERIA

**Date of Elections:** 5 March 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the expiry of its prescribed term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Algeria, the National People's Assembly, is composed of 282 Deputies elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Algerian citizens of at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote if they are in full possession of their civil and political rights.

Electoral registers are compiled on the level of the municipality; they are deemed permanent and are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory. Proxy voting is permitted for certain categories of electors, such as those residing abroad or confined due to illness, and members of the armed forces.

All qualified electors who are at least 28 years old\* are eligible to be elected to the National People's Assembly. Ineligible—while they hold office and for one year thereafter—are certain party officials, certain public officials at the *wilaya* (department) and *daira* (constituency) level, judges, and members of the armed and police forces. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with certain public posts held in the same constituency in which the Deputy is elected, membership of the armed or police forces, as well as with membership of another popular assembly.

All candidates are nominated by the country's National Liberation Front (FLN). Three times as many candidates as there are seats to be filled are designated in all electoral constituencies.

The 282 Deputies are elected in 160 constituencies by the party-list simple majority system. Each constituency (*daira*) having less than 80,000 inhabitants is represented by one Deputy; in the others, every 80,000 gives the right to one Deputy and every fraction above 20,000 to one supplementary seat. The Front proposes three times as many candidates as there are seats to be filled and electors thus express their preferences among these by crossing out one or more names.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XV* (1980-1981), p. 6.

In the event of parliamentary vacancies between general elections, by-elections are resorted to within six months, except in the last year prior to the end of the legislature's term.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

For the newly-enlarged Assembly's 282 seats, the National Liberation Front (FLN), the country's sole political party, nominated thrice the number of candidates (846), as required by the Electoral Law. Forty-two of these were women.

The turnout on polling day exceeded 70%. A total of 69 of the 136 incumbents who ran for re-election were successful. The new Assembly was characterized by its youth (average age of approximately 42 years); as in the preceding legislature, more than half of those elected were civil servants and teachers.

On 13 March, Mr. Rabah Bitat was re-appointed to his post as President of the National Assembly at its inaugural session.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the National People's Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	8,990,820
Voters . . . . .	6,054,740 (67.34%)

Political Group	Number of Seats
National Liberation Front (FLN) . . . . .	282

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men . . . . .	278
Women . . . . .	4
	<hr/> 282

3. Average Age of Deputies: 42 years

## BAHAMAS

**Date of Elections:** 10 June 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Assembly on the normal expiry of the Parliament's term of office. Previous general elections were held on 19 July 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of the Bahamas consists of the House of Assembly and the Senate.

The House of Assembly is composed of 43 members elected for 5 years. This total was raised from 38 prior to the 1982 elections\*.

The Senate is composed of 16 members appointed by the Governor-General –9 on the advice of the Prime Minister, 4 on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, and 3 on the advice of the Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

### **Electoral System**

Any citizen of the Bahamas who is at least 18 years old and not subject to any legal incapacity and who has resided in a particular constituency for a minimum of three months is entitled to vote in that same constituency. Disqualified from registration as electors are the insane, persons serving any sentence of imprisonment and persons under sentence of death.

Electoral registers are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

Citizens of the Bahamas at least 21 years of age who have ordinarily resided in the Bahamas for a period of not less than one year immediately before the date of their nomination are qualified to be elected as members of the House of Assembly. Candidates for appointment to the Senate must be citizens who are at least 30 years old and who have ordinarily resided in the Bahamas for a period of not less than one year immediately before the date of appointment.

Ineligible, for both the House and the Senate, are undischarged bankrupts, the insane, persons owing allegiance to a foreign State, persons under sentence of death or imprisonment, and those convicted of a felony or of electoral fraud. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the office of judge, substantive public officer or temporary public officer for a period exceeding three months; with being a member of any of the armed forces of the Crown other than in a time of war or emergency, or a member of the reserve of any such forces; and with employment on the personal staff of the Governor-General or in the Ministry of Tourism.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 9.



Candidates for the House must be nominated by a total of four electors and make a deposit of B\$ 400, which is forfeited if the candidate is not elected and does not obtain more than one-sixth of the total votes polled in his constituency.

For election purposes, the Bahamas are divided into 43 constituencies. One member of the House of Assembly is elected in each by simple majority vote.

House of Assembly seats which become vacant between general elections are filled through by-elections. Vacant Senate seats are filled by appointment made according to how the seat was originally filled.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

In the 1982 elections, the parties in contention for the 43 seats of the newly-enlarged House of Assembly were the ruling Progressive Liberal Party (PLP), led by Prime Minister Lynden Pindling; the right-wing Free National Movement (FNM), led by Mr. Kendal Isaacs; and the smaller Vanguard Nationalist and Socialist Party, Workers Party and the Commonwealth Democratic Party. Principal campaign issues included the country's high unemployment level (20-25%), a rising crime rate and allegations of corruption in public life.

Polling day was marked by a high voter turnout of over 90%. PLP obtained 32 seats, FNM capturing the 11 others. PLP thus gained its fifth successive general election victory and Prime Minister Pindling continued in office.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	84,158
Voters . . . . .	76,098 (90.4%)

Political Group	%	Number of Seats
Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) . . . . .	55.10	32 (+ 2)
Free National Movement (FNM) . . . . .	42.35	11 (+ 9)
Others . . . . .		— (— 6)
		<u>43*</u>

\* Five seats added since last elections.

#### 2. Distribution of Members of the House of Assembly according to Sex

Men . . . . .	42
Women . . . . .	1
	<u>43</u>

## BELGIUM

**Date of Elections:** 8 November 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held following the premature dissolution of Parliament on 5 October 1981. General elections had previously taken place in December 1978.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Belgium consists of the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate.

The Chamber of Representatives is composed of 212 members elected for 4 years.

The Senate has 181 members, all of whom have 4-year terms; of these, 106 are directly elected, 50 are elected by the provincial councils (in the proportion of one for every 200,000 people) and 25 are co-opted by the remaining Senators. The King's sons or, if he has no sons, Princes of the Belgian Royal Family who are successors to the throne for their part become *ex-officio* Senators at the age of 18.

### **Electoral System**

All Belgian citizens at least 18 years of age\* who have resided for at least six months in the same community have the right to vote. Criminals are deprived of this right, while the rights of certain categories of persons, such as the insane and prisoners, are suspended as long as these remain in an incapacitated state.

Electoral registers are continually kept up to date in each district. Since voting is compulsory any unjustified abstention is punishable, penalties ranging from a fine to removal from the register. Proxy and postal voting are permitted for certain electors.

Any qualified elector at least 25 years old who resides in Belgium and is in full possession of his civil and political rights may be a candidate for the Chamber of Representatives. Candidates for the Senate must meet the same aforesaid requirements but be at least 40 years of age; popularly-elected Senators must furthermore belong to one of certain categories, among which former Minister or member of Parliament, holder of a university degree, high-ranking civil servant or retired military officer, owner of a large industrial concern and present or former Governor, member of a provincial council or Burgomaster.

Except for Ministers, no member of Parliament can simultaneously be designated by the Government to undertake a salaried function. Senators elected by provincial councils cannot belong to the assemblies which have elected them.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 9.

Nomination of candidates for the Chamber of Representatives must be supported by 200 to 500 electors (depending on the size of the constituency), or three retiring members of Parliament, and be made between 23 and 22 days before the election; required support for popularly-chosen Senators is 100 electors, or three retiring members of Parliament. Nomination of indirectly-elected Senators must be made at the latest six days prior to polling day and be supported by at least five provincial councillors, and, for co-opted Senators, five days in advance, supported by at least 10 Senators.

Belgium is divided into 30 constituencies for Chamber of Representatives elections and into 20 for direct Senate elections. Voting takes place according to the party-list system, in a single ballot, with proportional representation in accordance with the d'Hondt method; remainders are distributed within each of the nine provinces. Vote-splitting is not provided for, but preferential voting is possible, as the elector may cast a nominal vote for the main candidate and for the substitute candidate of the list for which he is voting. Each individual candidate is regarded as constituting a separate list. Moreover, with the consent of the electors who sponsored them, candidates of a particular list may ally themselves with candidates nominally designated on lists submitted in other constituencies of the same province.

Substitute members who are chosen at the same time as popularly-elected members fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

On 21 September 1981, the Government of Prime Minister Mark Eyskens (Social Christian Party) resigned and the November election date was set a week later; the legislative poll was thus scheduled more than a year before it was normally due.

Underlying causes of this premature dissolution were primarily the country's continuing economic problems (highlighted by a spiralling unemployment rate) and inter-community tensions.

Chief rivals of the Social Christians were once again the Socialist and Liberal parties, each of these with Flemish and Walloon sections. A total of 816 candidates appearing on 24 different lists were alone in the running for the 34 Brussels seats. In accordance with July 1981 constitutional amendments, 18-year-olds were eligible to vote for the first time.

On polling day, the centre Social Christians incurred considerable losses which were picked up especially by the Liberals and the Flemish *Volksumie*. No one party emerged as clear winner, as the Flemish and French-speaking Socialists won 61 Representatives seats, the same number as the Social Christians. The Liberals captured 52 seats. Overall results thus evidenced a further polarization of politics along regional and linguistic lines. Formation of a new Government took several weeks. On 14 December, it was announced that the Flemish and French-speaking Social Christian and Liberal parties had agreed to form a centre-right coalition, these groups together holding 113 of the 212 Representatives' seats. Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, a Flemish Social Christian, named his Cabinet on 17 December.

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution  
of Seats in the Chamber of Representatives*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	6,878,141
Valid votes . . . . .	5,919,250

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Christian Social Party			
Flemish (CVP) . . . . .	1,165,239	19.69	43 (– 14)
Walloon (PSC) . . . . .	398,342	6.73	18 (– 7)
Socialist Party			
Walloon (PS) . . . . .	742,898	12.55	35 (+ 3)
Flemish (SP) . . . . .	744,582	12.58	26 ( = )
Liberal Party			
Flemish			
(Freedom and Progress Party – PVV) . . . . .	776,104	13.11	28 (+ 6)
Walloon			
( <i>Parti Réformateur Libéral</i> – PRL) . . . . .	487,337	8.23	24 (+ 9)
<i>Volksunie</i> . . . . .	587,545	9.93	20 (+ 6)
<i>Front Démocratique des Francophones</i> (FDF)/			
<i>Rassemblement Wallon</i> (RW) . . . . .	247,637	4.18	8 (– 7)
Ecologists . . . . .	259,254	4.48	4 (+ 4)
<i>Union démocratique pour le respect du travail</i>			
(RAD-UDRT) . . . . .	160,819	2.72	3 (+ 2)
Belgian Communist Party . . . . .	136,445	2.31	2 (– 2)
<i>Vlaams Blok</i> . . . . .	66,426	1.12	1 ( = )
Others . . . . .	146,522	2.47	—
			212



*2. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Senate*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	6,878,141
Voters . . . . .	6,502,428 (94.53%)
Valid votes . . . . .	5,984,857

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of directly- elected Senators	Number of Senators elected by Provin- cial Councils	Number of co-opted Senators	Total Number of Seats in Senate	Number of Seats held at Dissolu- tion	Number of Seats won at Previous Elec- tion
Christian Social Party								
C.V.P. . . . .	1,149,346	19.26	22	12	6	40	56	73
P.S.C. . . . .	414,738	6.92	8	6	2	16		
Socialist Party								
S.P. . . . .	732,136	12.83	13	5	3	21	52	53
P.S.* . . . . .	755,510	12.62	18	9	4	31		
Liberal Party								
P.V.V. . . . .	780,429	13.04	14	6	3	23	43	27
P.R.L. . . . .	513,104	8.59	11	6	3	20		
<i>Volksunie</i> . . . .	576,079	9.79	10	5	2	17	11	
F.D.F.-R.W. . . .	253,673	4.27	4	1	1	6	15	
Ecologists . . . .	295,663	4.93	4	—	1	5	—	
U.D.R.T.- R.A.D. . . . .	164,130	2.74	1	—	—	1	—	
Communist Party . . . . .	140,638	2.34	1	—	—	1	2	
Other lists . . . .	137,769	2.30	—	—	—	—	—	
			106	50	25	181	181	

\* Including two R.P.W. members (1 provincial, 1 co-opted).

### 3. Distribution of Senators according to Professional Category

Teachers . . . . .	38
Salaried clerks . . . . .	27
Businessmen . . . . .	26
Members of the legal profession . . . . .	25
Social workers . . . . .	13
Political party and trade union officials . . . . .	7
Engineers and architects . . . . .	7
Journalists . . . . .	5
Doctors . . . . .	5
Retired civil servants . . . . .	4
Insurers . . . . .	4
Farmers . . . . .	3
Notaries . . . . .	2
Manual workers . . . . .	1
Others . . . . .	6
No profession . . . . .	8
	<hr/> 181

### 4. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex

	Senate	Chamber of Representatives
Men . . . . .	160	200
Women . . . . .	21	12
	<hr/> 181	<hr/> 212

5. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Age Group

	Senate	Chamber of Representatives
27-35 years . . . . .	—	24
35-40 . . . . .	—	22
40-45 . . . . .	} 37	37
45-50 . . . . .		39
50-55 . . . . .	} 118	42
55-60 . . . . .		34
60-70 . . . . .	26	12
Over 70 . . . . .	—	2
	181	212

## BURMA

**Dates of Elections:** 4 to 30 October 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament in accordance with a constitutional amendment passed by the People's Assembly in March 1981. Under this amendment, the Assembly resolved that its regular term be reduced and expire on 9 November 1981. General elections were previously held in January 1978.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Burma, the People's Assembly, comprises 475 members elected for 4 years. Eleven additional members have been added since the previous (1978) elections\*.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen of Burma who has attained the age of 18 years has the right to vote. Disqualified are the insane, persons serving prison terms following conviction and members of religious orders.

Electoral rolls are compiled at the level of the township. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors who are at least 28 years old and whose parents are also Burmese citizens are eligible to stand for election as representatives to the People's Assembly.

Under Burma's one-party system, the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP), in consultation with mass and class organizations formed under its leadership and with the electorate of the constituency concerned, and respecting their wishes, submits lists of candidates for election as people's representatives.

Parliamentary constituencies are delimited on the township basis; each township elects at least one representative by absolute majority, townships with large populations having the right to additional members in proportion to their population. Elections in each constituency are only valid if more than half of the registered electorate have cast votes.

By-elections are held to fill Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 10.



## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General elections had previously been held in January 1978, when all People's Assembly candidates were members of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP). Since then, the legislature had been expanded by 11 seats, to 475.

The polling period was also marked by elections to provincial and local people's councils. Candidates for the national Parliament amounted to 475. In accordance with the 1974 Constitution, which established Burma as a one-party State, the BSPP nominated them after consultation with party units and local officials. Despite the lack of opposition, each nominee had to receive over 50% of the eligible votes to win under the Electoral Law.

All candidates were endorsed by the electorate, which turned out in high numbers. On 9 November, the newly-elected People's Assembly held its first session to elect the 29 members of the State Council; its Chairman, General San Yu, became President of the Union of Burma, succeeding U Ne Win, who had announced on 8 August 1981, at the fourth BSPP congress, that he intended to retire from this function following the elections. The 17-man Council of Ministers is headed by U Maung Maung Kha.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	16,700,000
Voters . . . . .	15,800,000 (94.6%)

Political Group	Number of Seats
Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) . . .	475

### 2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category

Workers . . . . .	439
Peasants . . . . .	16
Others . . . . .	20
	<hr/> 475

### 3. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex

Men . . . . .	462
Women . . . . .	13
	<hr/> 475

4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Age Group*

28-32 years . . . . .	—
33-37 » . . . . .	11
38-42 » . . . . .	64
43-47 » . . . . .	95
48-52 » . . . . .	101
53-57 » . . . . .	125
58-62 » . . . . .	47
63-67 » . . . . .	23
68-72 » . . . . .	8
Over 72 . . . . .	1
	<hr/>
	475



## COLOMBIA

**Date of Elections:** 14 March 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office. General elections had previously been held on 26 February 1978.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Colombia, the Congress, consists of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

The Senate is composed of two Senators for each of the country's 22 departments and one more for each 200,000 inhabitants or for each fraction of more than 100,000 inhabitants that the department has above the first 200,000.

The House of Representatives is composed of two Representatives for each department and one more for each 100,000 inhabitants or for each fraction of more than 50,000 inhabitants that the department has above the first 100,000.

The March 1982 elections were for 114 Senators and 199 Representatives, all elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Colombian citizens at least 18 years of age who are registered as electors in their municipality and have not been deprived of their civil or political rights have the right to vote. Members of the armed forces on active duty and of the police force are debarred from participating in the poll. Voting is not compulsory.

All electors who are at least 25 years of age and have never been condemned for a non-political offence involving corporal punishment are eligible for the House of Representatives.

To run for the Senate, a candidate must, in addition to the last condition mentioned above, be at least 35 years of age\*, Colombian by birth and have held certain high offices (President or Vice-President of the Republic, member of Congress, Cabinet Minister, head of a diplomatic mission, Governor of a department, judge of a higher court, Councillor of State, Attorney General of the nation, Comptroller General of the Republic, university professor for at least five years) or have undertaken a liberal profession with a university degree.

Representatives and Senators are elected in each constituency on the basis of a closed-list proportional representation system. A total of 22 constituencies consist of a single department; other less-densely populated regions are grouped together to form four more constituencies.

An alternate is elected alongside each Representative or Senator to replace either of the latter in the event of their resignation or death between general elections.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XV* (1980-1981), pp. 11-12.



## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

In the March 1982 elections, the centrist Liberal party (*Partido Liberal*) retained majority control in both Houses of the national Congress as well as in most of the country's regional assemblies and municipal councils. The Liberals emerged victorious even though the vote for the party was divided between two rival slates of candidates, one loyal to former President of the Republic Alfonso López Michelsen and the other to Senator Luis Carlos Galán, who described himself as a New Liberal; both of these planned to run in the 30 March presidential elections, Mr. López Michelsen having been officially designated as the Liberal candidate.

Opposing the Liberal Party were the Conservative Party (*Partido Conservador*), headed by Mr. Belisario Betancur, and a small left-wing coalition led by Mrs. Consuelo de Montejó. The three major candidates endorsed similar policies and programmes, including increased social measures. One major difference was that the Conservatives opposed proposals to legalize divorce.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Congress

Voters . . . . . 45% (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats in the House of Representatives	Number of Seats in the Senate
Liberal Party . . . . .	114	62
Conservative Party . . . . .	84	51
Leftist groups. . . . .	1	1
	<hr/> 199	<hr/> 114

## COMOROS

**Dates of Elections:** 7 and 14 March 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following the premature dissolution of this body on 25 January 1982. General elections were previously held in December 1978.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of the Comoros, the Federal Assembly, comprises 38 members elected for 5 years

### **Electoral System**

All Comorian citizens who are at least 18 years of age, in full possession of their civil and political rights and under no legal disability, are entitled to vote.

Electoral registers are compiled on the level of prefectures of the country's different regions. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors at least 21 years of age are eligible for the Federal Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with all other public functions or offices.

Each candidate must make a deposit of CFA 10,000 (equivalent to approximately 200 French francs), which is reimbursed if he obtains at least 10% of the votes cast in his constituency.

For election purposes, the Comoros are divided into 38 constituencies, each of which returns one Assembly member by majority vote in two ballots; a candidate is declared elected if he obtains an absolute majority of the votes cast in either ballot. The island of Grande-Comore comprises 18 constituencies, Anjouan has 15 and Mohéli 5.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies which arise between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

On 25 January 1982, President of the Republic Ahmed Abdallah prematurely dissolved the Government and the Federal Assembly subsequent to having accused certain of the country's leaders of corruption and mismanagement of the State budget, and with a view to giving a new impetus to the Government's policy. The President then announced plans to reduce the civil service by one-third. On 8 February, Mr. Ali Mroudjae was appointed Prime Minister, his Council of Ministers being announced one week later.

Legislative elections were held in two rounds, on 7 and 14 March. As at the previous polling in December 1978, candidates ran as independents, not representing any political party. Eighteen of the Federal Assembly seats were won outright in the first round. A total of 37 of the 38 seats were reportedly won by candidates supporting President Abdallah.

## COSTA RICA

**Date of Elections:** 7 February 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of its members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Costa Rica, the Legislative Assembly, consists of 57 Deputies who are elected for a 4-year term and are not immediately re-eligible.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen of Costa Rica who has reached the age of 18 and who is a registered elector within his constituency is entitled to vote. Persons who cannot vote are those under judicial interdiction and those whose political rights have been suspended. Naturalized citizens can only vote 12 months after acquiring such status.

While electoral registers are drawn up at the national level, electors are listed under the district to which they belong and in which they may exercise their right to vote. The Civil Register prepares the lists two months and 15 days before an election, on the basis of revisions which have been made continuously. Voting is made compulsory by the Constitution.

Every member of the electorate who is Costa Rican by birth or who has resided in the country for at least 10 years after naturalization is eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly provided he is at least 21 years old, can read and write and is in possession of his civil rights. The President of the Republic (or his close relatives), Ministers, certain high magistrates and high officials in the provincial government or autonomous institutions cannot be elected to Parliament while in office or for six months after leaving these positions. Public contractors are likewise barred.

The number of Deputies elected from the country's seven provinces is determined by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in proportion to the population of each.

In accordance with the Electoral Code, elections are conducted in conformity with the quotient and sub-quotient party-list system of proportional representation, under which electors vote for party lists without being permitted to combine different lists. The quotient is the number obtained by dividing the total of valid votes cast in a particular province by the number of seats to be filled in the same; the sub-quotient is the total of valid votes cast for a party which, while not attaining the quotient, obtains or exceeds 50% of it.

Successful parties are those which have attained the required quotient. Seats remaining unfilled on the basis of the quotient system are distributed among parties in the order of their residual votes; for this distribution, those parties which did not attain the sub-quotient are also taken into account, their votes being treated as residual votes.



Should a parliamentary vacancy arise between general elections, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal assigns the seats to the «next-in-line» candidate on the party list to which the former member belonged.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

In the elections for the Legislative Assembly—held the same day as those for President of the Republic—the social democratic National Liberation Party (*Partido de Liberación Nacional*—PLN) obtained 33 seats and thus convincingly regained the dominant parliamentary position which it had lost four years earlier to the Christian Democrat Opposition Union (*Unidad Opositora*—PUO), later known as the Unity coalition (*Coalición Unidad*); this coalition was made up of the Democratic Renewal Party, the Calderón Republican Party, the Christian Democratic Party and the Popular Union.

Principal issues during the election campaign related to the economy, with the PLN presidential candidate, Mr. Luis Alberto Monge Álvarez, promising to redress the country's economic crisis (foreign debt, inflation, unemployment, etc.) and running on a “return to the land” platform which aimed at promoting agricultural production and halting the rural exodus; he also envisaged the introduction of an austerity programme. Mr. Rafael Ángel Calderón Fournier was the Unity coalition candidate.

On polling day, the PLN won 57.3% of the presidential vote to 32.7% for the outgoing Unity coalition. Remaining votes went to the conservative National Movement (3.7%), the left-wing People United (3.2%) and the Alajuela Democratic Party (DAP), which contested the legislative seats only. A total of 16 parties had fielded candidates for the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Monge was due to take office on 8 May 1982, the same day as his 15-man Cabinet that was announced on 28 February.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Legislative Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	1,200,000 (approx.)
Voters . . . . .	77% (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats
National Liberation Party (PLN). . . . .	33 (+8)
Unity coalition . . . . .	18 (–9)
People United (PU) . . . . .	4 (+1)
National Movement . . . . .	1 (+1)*
Alajuela Democratic Party (DAP) . . . . .	1 (+1)*
	<hr/> 57

\* In the 1978 elections, the remaining two seats were won by the Popular Front and the Cartago Agricultural Union.

## CUBA

**Date of Elections:** 28 December 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of its five-year term under the socialist Constitution of 1976.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Cuba, the National Assembly of People's Power, is composed of 499 Deputies elected by the country's municipal assemblies of people's power.

### **Electoral system**

All Cuban citizens over the age of 16, except the mentally disabled and convicted criminals, are entitled to vote for the country's representative institutions. All citizens who are at least 18 years of age and have full political rights can be elected as Deputies to the National Assembly. Voting in elections is not compulsory.

Delegates to the 169 municipal assemblies of people's power are elected by popular and secret vote in the 10,736 constituencies in the country. In each constituency, the candidate obtaining the largest number of votes cast is considered elected. After municipal assemblies are constituted, the Deputies to the National Assembly are elected on the basis of secret ballots cast by municipal delegates. The candidates for these elections are selected and presented by a commission composed of representatives of the municipal organs of the Cuban Communist Party, the Young Communist League and the mass organizations. Candidates, however, need not necessarily be members of the Cuban Communist Party. Also, no monetary deposits are required from candidates. All expenses related to the electoral process are covered by the State. The number of Deputies per municipality depends on its population; there is one for every 20,000 inhabitants or fraction above 10,000, so that all municipalities are represented by at least one Deputy.

Once elected, National Assembly members continue working at their existing jobs; according to the Constitution, the status of Deputy does not entail personal privileges or economic benefits of any kind. Each Deputy is accountable to his electors who may recall him in case he betrays their confidence or commits an act unworthy of his office. Vacancies between general elections are filled through by-elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The election of candidates to the 169 municipal assemblies was held on 11 and 18 October 1981. A total of 6,097,139 registered voters (97.2% of the electorate) went to the polls and elected 9,763 delegates in the first round on 11 October. In the second and final round, the

remainder of the 10,736 seats were filled on 18 October 1981, with 1,156,216 voters (93.6% of the electorate) going to the polls.

The second five-year term of the National Assembly of People's Power was inaugurated on 28-29 December 1981. Sr. Flavio Bravo Pardo was elected President of the Assembly and Dr. Fidel Castro was re-elected (by the Assembly) as President of the Council of State (the highest representative body, being elected from among the Assembly's Deputies). Dr. Castro continues to be the Head of the State and the Government, and the First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party.

## Statistics

### 1. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Leadership personnel . . . . .	256
Workers . . . . .	80
Technicians . . . . .	61
Teachers . . . . .	28
Public officials (service employees and civil servants) . . . . .	27
Members of the armed forces . . . . .	24
Ministry of the Interior . . . . .	13
Peasants . . . . .	6
Others . . . . .	4
	<hr/> 499

### 2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	386
Women . . . . .	113
	<hr/> 499

### 3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

18-30 years . . . . .	24
31-40 » . . . . .	152
41-60 » . . . . .	299
61 and over . . . . .	24
	<hr/> 499

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**Date of Elections:** 28 February 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of its term of office. The previous elections took place on 11 November 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Supreme People's Assembly, comprises 615 Deputies elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens who have reached the age of 17, including members of the armed forces on active duty, have the right to vote, irrespective of sex, race, occupation, length of residence, property status, education, party affiliation, political views and religion; ineligible, however, are the insane and those disenfranchised by court decision.

Electoral registers are compiled at the level of the sub-constituency. Voting is compulsory.

All qualified electors may be elected to the Supreme People's Assembly.

Candidates for Deputy are recommended by political parties and social organizations (which may recommend joint candidates), or at meetings of employees of State organs and enterprises, of members of co-operative farms and organs, and of servicemen. The recommended candidate must agree, in writing, that he is willing to be elected from the constituency concerned.

The election of Deputies is valid only when more than half of the voters in a given constituency take part in it. The candidate who has received the greatest number of votes and more than half the votes of all electors of his constituency is declared elected. Each elector may cast only one vote for one candidate of one constituency.

In the event of parliamentary vacancy arising due to death or recall of a Deputy, a by-election is held pursuant to a decision of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

It was officially stated that all of the country's registered electorate except those out of the country had voted by noon on polling day and that the totality of these electors had voted in favour of the 615 registered candidates proposed on the final official list of the Workers'



Party of Korea, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland.

At its first session (5-7 April 1982), the seventh Supreme People's Assembly unanimously re-elected Marshal Kim Il Sung as President of the Republic. Mr. Li Jong Ok was re-elected Prime Minister and formed a 33-member Administrative Council (Cabinet).

## Statistics

### 1. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Workers . . . . .	34.6%
Peasants . . . . .	10.2%
Others . . . . .	55.2%
	<hr/> 100.0%

### 2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	80.4%
Women . . . . .	19.6%
	<hr/> 100.0%

### 3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

Under 35 years . . . . .	3.9%
35-55       » . . . . .	71.2%
Over 55     » . . . . .	24.9%
	<hr/> 100.0%

## DENMARK

**Date of Elections:** 8 December 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Following the adoption of a resolution by a majority of 78 votes against 74 (0 abstentions) condemning a government plan of transfer of means from pension funds to industry and agriculture, Parliament was dissolved and the Government resigned on 2 November 1981. Writs for a new election were issued and elections held for all the seats in Parliament. Previous general elections had taken place in October 1979, and the normal expiry date of the mandate was October 1983.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Denmark, the *Folketing*, is composed of 179 members elected for 4 years. Of this total, 2 are elected in the Faeroe Islands and 2 in Greenland.

### **Electoral System**

The right to vote in a *Folketing* election is held by every Danish subject of at least 18 years of age whose permanent residence is in Denmark, provided that he has not been declared incapable of conducting his own affairs.

Electoral registers are revised at the municipal level in January and February of each year. Voting is not compulsory. Postal voting is permitted particularly for the sick, the aged, prisoners and person abroad.

Any person who has a right to vote at *Folketing* elections is eligible for membership of the *Folketing* unless he has been convicted "of an act which in the eyes of the public makes him unworthy of being a member of the *Folketing*".

Any elector can contest an election if his nomination is supported by a minimum number of electors of his constituency. This minimum number is 25. No monetary deposit is required. Each candidate must declare whether he will stand for a certain party or as an independent.

For electoral purposes, metropolitan Denmark (excluding Greenland and the Faeroe Islands) is divided into three areas—Greater Copenhagen, Jutland and the Islands. These areas are in turn subdivided, with the Copenhagen area comprising three large constituencies, and the Jutland and Islands each comprising seven county constituencies. Each of these constituencies is for its part divided into two to 10 districts: there are altogether 103 of these districts. Two to 15 parliamentary seats are allocated to each constituency.

The electoral system is one of proportional representation. Each elector can cast either "personal vote" for one of the candidates or a vote for one of the party lists. He can vote

for any of the candidates or parties of his constituency, not being limited to those of his nomination district.

Of the 175 seats reserved for Denmark proper, 135 seats are distributed among the constituencies. The mandates in the constituencies are distributed among the political groups in contention according to a modified version of the St. Laguë method (whereby the total vote of each party in a constituency is divided by 1, 4, 3, 5 and so on by odd numbers in order to arrive at the quotients on the basis of which seats are allocated). Utilization of this method ensures representation for smaller parties.

The 40 remaining, or supplementary, seats are then distributed among the parties which either have won at least one area seat; have obtained, in two electoral areas, at least as many votes as the average number of valid votes cast, in the area, per area seat; or have obtained at least 2% of all valid votes cast in the country as a whole. Such distribution, based on votes obtained on the national scale, is aimed at redressing the imbalance achieved through the distribution by constituencies.

When it has been decided which parties are entitled to a share of the supplementary seats it is calculated, on the basis of the total number of votes cast for these parties in all parts of the country, how many seats each party is proportionately entitled to of the 175 seats. From the number of seats thus arrived at for each party, the number of area seats already obtained by the party is deducted. The number thus arrived at is the number of supplementary seats due to the party.

The end result of this rather involved electoral system is a distribution of seats in the *Folketing* that faithfully reflects the share of the popular votes received by the parties.

Candidates who have been nominated but not elected figure on a list of substitute members drawn up by the Ministry of Interior after each general election. These substitute members fill the seats of the *Folketing* which become vacant between general elections.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1981 elections were the fifth general elections in Denmark within a period of a little less than eight years.

After the elections of 1979, the leader of the Social Democratic Party, Mr. Anker Jørgensen, had formed a minority Government. At the 1981 elections, 13 political parties nominated 1130 candidates for the 175 seats of metropolitan Denmark (excluding Greenland and the Faeroe Islands). The main problems discussed during the campaign were the country's economic difficulties, particularly the ever-increasing foreign debt and unemployment, as well as the role of trade unions in Government policy-making. The Liberals, together with the Conservatives, put forward a joint plan for the recovery of the economy and limitations in Government spending. The Social Democrats presented a "action programme" containing among others a framework for a reform of the supply of investment means to industry and agriculture from pension funds and insurance means.

On polling day, the Conservatives, Socialist Popular Party and Centre Democrats made progress, whereas the Progress Party, the Liberal Party and the Radical Party declined. The Single Tax Party lost all its seats in the *Folketing*. The Social Democrats, despite a loss of nine seats, maintained their leading position in Parliament. Prime Minister Anker Jørgensen again formed a minority Social Democratic Cabinet on 30 December.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Folketing*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	3,776,333
Voters . . . . .	3,143,444 (83.2%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	19,881
Valid votes . . . . .	3,123,563

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Election
Social Democrats . . . . .	105	1,026,726	32.9	60*	69	69
Conservative Party . . . . .	88	451,478	14.5	26	22	22
Socialist Popular Party . . . . .	99	353,373	11.3	21	11	11
Liberal Party . . . . .	95	353,280	11.3	21*	23	23
Progress Party . . . . .	96	278,383	8.9	16	20	20
Centre Democrats . . . . .	77	258,522	8.3	15	6	6
Radical Party . . . . .	98	160,053	5.1	9	10	10
Left Socialist . . . . .	85	82,711	2.7	5	6	6
Christian Popular Party . . . . .	81	72,174	2.3	4	5	5
Single Tax Party . . . . .		44,964	1.4	—	5	5
Outside of above parties (Greenland) . . . . .				2	2	2
				179	179	179

\* Including one MP from the Faeroe Islands.

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	137
Women . . . . .	42
	179





## DJIBOUTI

**Date of Elections:** 21 May 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament in the first such poll since independence was attained in June 1977\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Djibouti, the National Assembly, is composed of 65 Deputies elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

Under the Electoral Law of October 1981\*\*, Deputies are elected by party-list simple majority system in one round of voting, the number of candidates being equivalent to the number of parliamentary seats to be filled and the country as a whole forming a single constituency. The *Rassemblement populaire pour le Progrès* (RPP) is alone entitled to nominate candidates; its list must be submitted at least 21 days prior to the election date.

Citizens who are qualified electors, 23 years of age or above and who have a clean judicial record, been resident in Djibouti for at least five years and know how to read, write and speak French or Arabic in a fluent fashion are eligible for election to the National Assembly. Certain public or government officials, judges and their substitutes, and members of the armed, police and security forces may not be members of Parliament while holding these posts and for two years after leaving the same.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Prior to independence on 27 June 1977, members of national legislature (Chamber of Deputies) were elected for five years on 8 May 1977, a single list of 65 candidates having been presented by the People's Alliance for Independence (*Rassemblement populaire pour l'indépendance*). In 1979, this political group was succeeded by the *Rassemblement populaire pour le Progrès* (RPP). Under the October 1981 Electoral Law, the RPP was the only party empowered to nominate candidates for the May 1982 elections. On polling day, this RPP list of 65 names was overwhelmingly supported by the electorate.

The President of the Republic is Mr. Hassan Gouled Aptidon and the Prime Minister is Mr. Barkat Gourad Hamadou.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections XI* (1976-1977), p. 8.

\*\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 11.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	85,995
Voters . . . . .	79,380 (92.3%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	1,349
Valid votes . . . . .	78,031
<i>Votes in favour of the</i>	
<i>Rassemblement populaire pour le progrès list . .</i>	78,031

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Date of Elections:** 16 May 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of the Dominican Republic, the Congress, comprises the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

The Chamber of Deputies consists of 91 members elected for 4 years by the people of the provinces and the National District in the proportion of one for every 50,000 inhabitants or fraction thereof greater than 25,000; in no case, however, are there fewer than two Deputies from a province.

The Senate consists of 27 members elected for 4 years in the proportion of one for each province and one for the National District.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens who are at least 18 years of age or those who are or have been married have the right to vote, with the exception of members of the armed forces and the police. This right is lost in the event of an irrevocable conviction for treason, espionage or conspiracy against the Republic, or for taking up arms or lending aid or participating in any attack against it; it is suspended in cases of irrevocable sentence to criminal punishment (until rehabilitation), legally declared judicial interdiction (while it is in effect) and acceptance, while in Dominican territory, of an office or employment from a foreign Government without prior authorization from the executive power.

While the electoral register is regularly revised every 10 years, the Central Electoral Board may order a revision any time. Voting is compulsory for all citizens.

To be eligible for either Chamber, a citizen must be at least 25 years of age, have full enjoyment of his civil and political rights and be a native of the territorial district that elects him, or have resided therein for at least five consecutive years. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with any other public office or position.

Candidates must be nominated by a political party recognized by the Central Electoral Board; they are chosen by a convention of their party, which then submits these names to the competent electoral board. Independent candidates may only stand if they are backed by a political group which has an organization and a programme similar to that of a political party.

Deputies are elected in the provinces and the National District on the basis of a closed party-list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the d'Hondt method.



Senators, on the other hand, are elected from single-member constituencies via simple majority vote.

Substitutes chosen at the same time as titular parliamentarians fill the seats of the latter which become vacant between general elections.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The congressional elections were held simultaneously with those for President of the Republic.

On polling day, Mr. Salvador Jorge Blanco, candidate of the moderate leftist Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), was elected President by 46.7% of the popular vote, defeating Mr. Joaquin Balaguer of the rightist Reformist Party (36.5%) and former President Juan Bosch of the leftist Dominican Liberation Party (10%). Campaign issues had generally centered on the problem of the country's worsening economy (unemployment, high energy costs, low prices for sugar —the main export earner, etc.) as well as on the personalities of the various leaders.

The PRD also won majorities in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. President-elect Blanco was due to take office on 16 August 1982\*.

\* On 3 July 1982, outgoing President Guzman died and Vice-President Jacobo Majluta assumed the office until Mr. Blanco's inauguration.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,600,000 (approx.)
Voters . . . . .	70% (approx.)

## EL SALVADOR

**Date of Elections:** 28 March 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in the national Constituent Assembly. It will be recalled that the Legislative Assembly elected in March 1978 was dissolved following the coup d'Etat of 15 October 1979.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The national Constituent Assembly of El Salvador is composed of 60 members elected for the purpose of drafting a new Constitution and preparing for new presidential and parliamentary elections, the former due to take place in 1983.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens aged 18 and over, except for members of the armed and security forces, were entitled to vote for members of the Constituent Assembly. Voting was compulsory.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The election date was announced on 11 November 1981 and the eight-week electoral campaign opened on 28 January 1982. A total of 331 candidates were in contention.

On polling day, the centrist Christian Democratic Party (PDC), led by President of the Republic José Napoléon Duarte, won the largest number of seats (24) but failed to secure an absolute Assembly majority with the result that the five right-wing parties, led by the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), contesting the election came together to form a coalition disposing of 36 seats. Leftist parties had boycotted the poll.

At its opening session on 26 April, the Assembly approved decrees granting itself, *inter alia*, legislative powers. On 29 April, a centrist candidate, Dr. Alvaro Magaña, was elected as interim Head of State. On 4 May, a 14-member Government took office in which the right-wing parties held eight posts, the PDC three and independents three. The President of the Assembly is Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader of ARENA.

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the Constituent Assembly*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Christian Democratic Party (PDC) . . . . .	24
Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) . .	19
Nationalist Reconciliation Party (PCN) . . . .	14
Democratic Action (AD) . . . . .	2
Salvadorean Popular Party (PPS) . . . . .	1
	<hr/> 60

## GAMBIA

**Dates of Elections:** 4 and 5 May 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the elective seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of its term of office. General elections had previously been held in April 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Gambia, the House of Representatives, consists of:

- 35 “elected members”;
- 5 “Chiefs’ representative members”;
- 8 “nominated members” appointed by the President of the Republic;
- The Speaker, elected by the House, who may either have been a member of it or not, but may not be a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary;
- The Attorney-General, who sits *ex-officio*.

Only the elected members, Chiefs’ representative members, and the Attorney-General have the right to vote.

All members of the House have a 5-year term of office.

### **Electoral System**

Requirements applicable to electors:

- Of elected members: to qualify, any citizen of Gambia must be registered on the electoral rolls, must be at least 21 years of age, and must be a resident for at least six months of the constituency in which he is registered. No person under allegiance to a foreign State, insane, or serving a sentence of imprisonment is qualified, nor are Head Chiefs.
- Of Chiefs’ representative members: there are elected exclusively by the Head Chiefs.

The electoral registers of each constituency are revised in each “general registration year”, i.e. every fifth year after 1968; a supplemental registration is carried out in each of the intervening years. Voting is not compulsory.

Requirements applicable to candidates:

- As elected members: any citizen who is at least 21 years of age, who can speak English well enough to take an active part in the proceedings of the House and who is qualified as an elector may be a candidate for election as an elected member. Undischarged bankrupts, persons under a sentence of death, those serving, or having in the preceding five years served, a sentence of imprisonment of at least six months and those party to certain government contracts are ineligible.

— As Chiefs’ representative members: the same qualifications and disqualifications apply as for elected members, except that candidates for election as Chiefs’ representative members need not qualify as electors.



Every candidate for election must be nominated by at least three voters of the same constituency and make a monetary deposit, which is reimbursed if he is successful or obtains at least one-fifth of the votes cast for the elected candidate.

Gambia is divided into 35 electoral constituencies, the boundaries of which are fixed by a presidential commission. In each of these, a single Deputy is elected by simple majority vote. Votes are cast by ballot tokens dropped through a hole next to the candidate's picture.

Chiefs' representative members must be approved unanimously by the Head Chiefs from a list proposed by them; if they are not so approved, they are selected on the basis of simple majority.

A by-election is held to fill any seat of an elected member or a Chiefs' representative member which becomes vacant between general elections.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The legislative elections were combined with those for President of the Republic, a constitutional amendment adopted in March 1982 having stipulated that the President would henceforth be elected by universal direct suffrage. The polling date was announced on 20 March.

Opposing incumbent President Sir Dawda Jawara and his ruling People's Progressive Party (PPP) were Sheriff Mustapha Dibba and his National Convention Party (NCP). President Jawara's large victory on polling day (137,020 votes (72.4%) to Mr. Dibba's 52,130 (27.6%)) was interpreted as an endorsement of his Government's decision to enter into a confederation with neighbouring Senegal (the Senegambian confederation entered into effect on 1 February 1982). In the House race, the PPP won 27 of the 35 popularly-elected seats.

President Jawara, who has been in power since independence in 1965, reshuffled his Government on 12 May.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Representatives

Valid votes . . . . . 166,102

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats of Popularly-Elected Members
People's Progressive Party (PPP) . . . . .	102,545	61.7	27 (-1)
National Convention Party (NCP) . . . . .	32,634	19.7	3 (-2)
United Party . . . . .	4,782	2.9	- (-2)
Independents . . . . .	26,141	15.7	5 (+5)
			35

## GREECE

**Date of Elections:** 18 October 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following premature dissolution of this body on 19 September 1981. Previous general elections had been held on 20 November 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

According to the 1975 Constitution, the unicameral Parliament of Greece, the Chamber of Deputies, comprises no fewer than 200 and no more than 300 Deputies, all elected for four years. The present number of members is 300; of these, 288 are directly elected and 12, called "honorary" or "State" Deputies are nominated by the most successful political parties from among the "most prominent personalities" in their ranks.

### **Electoral System**

All Greek citizens at least 20 years of age and in full possession of their civil rights are entitled to vote. Barred from voting are persons disfranchized pursuant to legal prohibition or criminal conviction for an offence defined in the common penal or military code.

Electoral registers are compiled at the local level and revised annually. Voting is compulsory, failure to participate resulting in a term of imprisonment ranging from one month to one year.

All qualified electors at least 25 years of age may be elected to Parliament. If they are candidates, members of the armed and police forces, certain public officials or holders of public office, notaries, registrars of mortgages, and employees or directors of semi-governmental agencies or organizations must resign from their posts at least 18 days before announcing their candidature. All candidates must be supported by a minimum of 12 electors and make a deposit of 8000 *drachmae*.

Deputies are elected in 56 different constituencies in accordance with a system of enforced proportional representation. Under this system, seats are allocated to the different parties presenting lists of candidates on the basis of proportional representation (calculated by dividing the total number of votes cast in each electoral region by the number of seats in that region, plus one), with those remaining to be allotted after this first allocation being distributed among those parties which have received more than a required minimum proportion of the vote (17% of the national vote for a single party, 25% for a two-party coalition, 30% for a coalition of three or more parties).

By-elections are normally held to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections. A vacancy that arises during the last year of a parliamentary term is not filled by election as long as the number of vacant seats does not exceed one-fifth of the total number of members.

## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General elections had previously taken place in November 1977. On 5 May 1980, Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis (New Democracy Party - ND) was elected President of the Republic. The new leader of the centre-right ND, Mr. George Rallis, then formed Government, reshuffling the previous Cabinet.

The date of the 1981 poll was set on 24 August 1981. The Chamber of Deputies was prematurely dissolved on 19 September, normal expiry of the Parliament's four-year term having been due two months later. A growing challenge to the ruling party from the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) emerged prior to the elections. During the campaign, PASOK, led by Mr. Andreas Papandreou, called for tighter government control of the economy, a greater decentralization of government administration and increased non-alignment in foreign affairs. ND countered by stressing its record in office and the reliability and experience of its leadership. In all, 2916 candidates (including 204 women) and 14 parties were in the running.

On polling day\*, PASOK swept to victory as only three parties (compared to seven in 1977) obtained seats. Greece thus had its first socialist Government. Mr. Papandreou became Prime Minister and his 21-member Cabinet was sworn in on 21 October.

\* Also on 18 October, PASOK won a relative majority in the country's first direct elections (for 2 members) to the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Community, which Greece had joined on 1 January 1981.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Chamber of Deputies

Number of registered electors . . . . .	6,927,880
Voters . . . . .	5,753,478 (83.05%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	82,421
Valid votes . . . . .	5,671,057

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Election
Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) . . . . .	378	2,726,309	48.02	172	94	93
New Democracy (ND). . . . .	377	2,034,496	35.87	115	177	172
Communist Party of Greece . . . . .	374	620,302	10.93	13	11	11
				300		

2. *Distribution of Deputies according  
to Professional Category*

Lawyers . . . . .	140
Doctors . . . . .	31
Architects . . . . .	27
Teachers . . . . .	19
Ex-military . . . . .	18
Economists . . . . .	11
Journalists . . . . .	6
Industrialists . . . . .	5
Farmers . . . . .	5
Actors . . . . .	4
Others . . . . .	34
	<u>300</u>

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	287
Women . . . . .	13
	<u>300</u>

4. *Distribution of Deputies according  
to Age Group*

Under 50 years . . . . .	160
50-60 . . . . .	72
Over 60 . . . . .	68
	<u>300</u>





## GUATEMALA

**Date of Elections:** 7 March 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Guatemala, the Congress, consists of 66 members\* elected for 4 years. Deputies are eligible for re-election only once, four years after the termination of their first term.

### **Electoral System**

All Guatemalan citizens who are at least 18 years of age and inscribed on the electoral register have the right to vote. Persons who have been deprived of their civil rights pursuant to criminal conviction or judicial interdiction are barred from being electors.

Voting is compulsory for all citizens who can read and write and optional for illiterate electors.

To be elected Deputy, a person must be a native Guatemalan, enjoy his rights of citizenship and be over 30 years of age. Public contractors, close relatives of the President and Vice-President of the Republic, persons who have been convicted in a case involving accounts and have not settled their liabilities, members of the armed forces on active duty, persons representing the interests of companies or of individuals operating public services, and ministers of any religion or sect are not eligible for the Congress. Officials of the executive and judicial branches and employees thereof, or of the legislative branch, may not concurrently hold parliamentary seats; persons holding a teaching position and professionals in the service of social welfare establishments are excepted from this incompatibility.

Candidates must be nominated by legally registered political parties. The Constitution prohibits the formation of parties which advocate the Communist ideology, or whose doctrinal tendency, method of action or international connections threaten the sovereignty of the State or the foundations of its democratic organization. For election purposes, Guatemala is divided into districts; the number of Deputies from each depends on the latter's population.

Deputies are elected by simple majority in constituencies in which there is only one seat to be filled. If two seats are to be filled, the two candidates of the party that polled the most votes are elected, with one exception: when the difference between the total number of valid

\* This total represents an increase of five members since the previous (1978) elections.

votes obtained by the first-place party and the total number obtained by the second-place party is less than 20% of the first-place party's total number. In this case, each of the two highest parties receives one of the two contested places. When there are three or more seats to be filled, a closed list, proportional representation system is used. Distribution of seats is then effected according to the d'Hondt method.

Within each constituency, an alternate Deputy is elected at the same time as the titular member. The former must be called upon within eight days to fill a vacancy which might arise between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The congressional elections were held concurrently with those for President of the Republic and municipalities.

Running for President were four candidates: General Angel Anibal Guevara of the ruling centre-right coalition Popular Democratic Front—a coalition of the Revolutionary Party, the Democratic Institutional Party and the Front of National Unity; Mr. Mario Sandoval Alarcón of the far-right National Liberation Movement (MLN); Mr. Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre of the moderate National Opposition Union (comprising the Christian Democratic and National Renovation parties); and Mr. Gustavo Anzueto Vielman of the Authentic Nationalist Central (CAN).

On polling day, General Guevara obtained 39% of the ballots cast. However, since he had not received an absolute majority of the popular vote, it was for the national Congress to choose the new President. The governing coalition controlled the Congress, and General Guevara's election was therefore a foregone conclusion; the President-elect would take office on 1 July for a four-year term. Although all three opposition parties won congressional seats, they refused to occupy them in protest against what they labelled a fraudulent poll.

On 23 March, a military coup d'Etat took place and a group of army officers announced the formation of a junta to replace the elected Government, claiming they were rising "against corruption following a fraudulent election". The next day, the junta suspended the Constitution, dissolved Congress and banned political parties\*. The coup leaders identified themselves as members of the "Young Officers Movement".

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 13.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Congress*

Number of registered electors . . . . . 2,250,000 (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats
Popular Democratic Front . . . . .	33
National Liberation Movement . . . . .	21
Authentic Nationalist Central . . . . .	3
National Opposition Union . . . . .	2
Others . . . . .	7
	<hr/> 66





## HONDURAS

**Date of Elections:** 29 November 1981

### Reason for Elections

Electors in Honduras were called upon to elect their representatives to the National Congress which was to replace the Constituent Assembly elected in April 1980.

### Characteristics of Parliament

Under the terms of the new Constitution, prepared by the Constituent Assembly and promulgated on 20 January 1982, the unicameral Parliament of Honduras, or National Congress, consists of 82 Deputies.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General legislative elections had previously been held in March 1971. In December 1972, the 64-member National Congress was dissolved following a military coup d'Etat. In April 1980, a 71-seat Constituent Assembly was elected in order to draft a new Constitution and prepare the ground for a smooth return to civilian government\*.

The parliamentary elections were combined with those for President of the Republic. Leading contenders in both races were the conservative *Partido Nacional* (PN) and the centrist *Partido Liberal de Honduras* (PLH). Their candidates for President were, respectively, Mr. Ricardo Zuniga Agustinus and Mr. Roberto Suazo Cordova, President of the Constituent Assembly. Both were in favour of gradual reform to raise the country's poor living standards. Also in the running were the centre-left Christian Democrat and Innovation and Unity parties.

On a peaceful polling day, nearly 80% of an electorate of more than 1.5 million turned out to vote. The Liberal Party scored a clear victory, gaining 54% of the popular vote and thus capturing both the presidency and an absolute majority in Congress with 44 out of 82 seats. Dr. Suazo Cordova took office for a four-year term on 27 January 1982.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIV* (1979-1980), p. 14.



## INDONESIA

**Date of Elections:** 4 May 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the elective seats in Parliament on the expiry of the normal term of office for members. The last elections were held in May 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Indonesia, the House of Representatives (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat*), has 460 members. Of these, 364 are popularly-elected and 96 – members of the armed forces and non-military functional groups – are appointed by the President of the Republic. All Representatives have 5-year terms of office.

### **Electoral System**

All Indonesian citizens who at the time of registration of electors are at least 17 years old or married are qualified to vote. Disqualified are the insane, ex-members of the prohibited Indonesian Communist Party or affiliated mass organizations, persons directly or indirectly involved in the attempted Communist coup of 1965, and persons serving a sentence of imprisonment or confinement of at least five years' duration. Members of the armed forces cannot exercise their right to vote as long as they remain in service.

Electoral registers are revised at least 105 days prior to election day. Voting is not compulsory.

A candidate for the House of Representatives must be a qualified voter of at least 21 years of age who speaks the Indonesian language and is able to read and write Latin characters, who has graduated from a secondary high school or has equivalent knowledge and experience in social and governmental activities, and who is loyal to *Pancasila* as the basic ideology of the State.

Nomination is made by political parties or functional organizations, the nomination form to be signed by at least two members of the leadership of the organization concerned.

Voting in the country's 27 electoral constituencies is based on the party-list system with proportional distribution of seats, each organization obtaining as many seats as its total number of votes contains the local "electoral quotient"; voters indicate their selections by piercing party symbols on a ballot paper identical throughout Indonesia. Thereafter, the party winning the seats itself selects the Representatives to fill them.

A successor is chosen by the former Representative's party to fill a seat which becomes vacant between general elections.



## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1982 general elections were the fourth since Indonesia became independent in 1945.

Forty-five days of campaigning were allowed. The system provided for public rallies and exclusive campaigning days for each of the three main parties on a three-day cycle. While there were some disturbances and incidents of violence during the campaign, the polling was quiet and orderly throughout the country, with a voter turnout of over 90%.

The ruling *Golkar*, which again won an overwhelming majority of seats, is not officially regarded as a political party; it is rather a "functional group", or alliance of more than 200 trade, professional and regional organizations, ranging from civil servants, teachers, journalists and students to village chiefs, farmers and fishermen.

All of the candidates to the House of Representatives had been approved beforehand by the Government. *Golkar's* overall share of elective seats and votes obtained showed improvement as compared to the previous (1977) general elections.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Representatives

Number of registered electors . . . . .	82,132,263
Voters . . . . .	74,930,875 (91.23%)

Political or Functional Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats won at the 1977 Elections
<i>Golkar</i> . . . . .	715	48,334,724	58.44	246	232
United Development Party . . .	592	20,871,880	25.54	94	99
Indonesian Democratic Party . .	438	5,919,702	7.24	24	29
				364*	360

\* The other 96 members are appointed by the President of the Republic, with the composition as follows:

Armed Forces. . . . .	75 seats
Professional Group . . . . .	21 seats

The 21 members of the Professional Group joined the *Golkar* so that the distribution of seats in the forthcoming House of Representatives became:

<i>Golkar</i> . . . . .	267 seats
United Development Party . . .	94 seats
Indonesian Democratic Party . .	24 seats
Armed Forces. . . . .	75 seats

2. *Distribution of Representatives according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	422
Women . . . . .	38
	<hr/>
	460



## IRELAND

**Dates of Elections:** 18 February 1982 (*Dáil Éireann*)  
12 August 1981 and 21 April 1982 (*Seanad Éireann*)

### Purpose of Elections

#### *Dáil Éireann*

Elections were held to renew all the seats of the House of Representatives (*Dáil Éireann*) following the premature dissolution of this body on 27 January 1982. *Dáil* elections were previously held on 11 June 1981.

#### *Seanad Éireann*

According to Article 18(8) of the Constitution, a general renewal of the Senate (*Seanad*) must take place not later than 90 days after a dissolution of the *Dáil*. In view of the *Dáil* dissolutions of May 1981 and January 1982, *Seanad* renewals were effected on the dates indicated above.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Ireland, the *Oireachtas*, is composed of a House of Representatives (*Dáil Éireann*) and a Senate (*Seanad Éireann*).

The House of Representatives has 166 members elected for a maximum of 5 years.

The Senate is composed of 60 members, of whom:

- (a) 11 are nominated by the *Taoiseach* (Prime Minister);
- (b) 3 are elected by the National University of Ireland;
- (c) 3 are elected by the University of Dublin;
- (d) 43 are elected from five panels of candidates, consisting of persons having knowledge of and practical experience in, respectively, culture and education, agriculture, labour, industry and commerce, public administration and social services.

Not more than 11 and not less than 5 members of the Senate are elected from any one panel.

### Electoral System

Every citizen who is not disqualified by law and who has reached the age of 18 has the right to vote in elections to the *Dáil* in the constituency in which he ordinarily resides.

Registers of electors are revised annually at the county or county borough level. Voting is not compulsory. Members of the armed and police forces are authorized to vote by post.

As regards elections for the Senate, the following persons may vote:

- (a) For the 3 representatives of the National University of Ireland, every citizen over 18 years of age who has received a degree from the University;



- (b) For the 3 representatives of the University of Dublin, every citizen over 18 years of age who has received either a degree or a foundation scholarship from the University or, if a woman, has obtained a non-foundation scholarship;
- (c) For the 43 other Senators, members of the new *Dáil*, the outgoing Senate and every council of a county or county borough.

Electoral rolls for Senate elections are revised before each election.

Citizens who fulfil the conditions required of electors to the *Dáil* are entitled to stand for election to this House, with the exception of the insane, undischarged bankrupts, persons undergoing imprisonment with hard labour for at least six months or penal servitude for an term imposed by a court of competent jurisdiction, and persons convicted of corrupt electoral practices. Members of the armed and police forces, civil servants (unless excepted), the President of the Republic, the Comptroller and Auditor General and all judges are excluded from membership while holding these posts.

For election to the *Dáil*, a person may nominate himself or may, with his consent, be nominated by another person (who is registered as a *Dáil* elector in the same constituency) as proposer. Nominations must be made within nine days after the issue of the writ for election and be accompanied by a deposit of £100, which is reimbursed if the candidate is elected or gains at least one-third of the electoral quota.

Candidates for the Senate must be eligible to become members of the *Dáil* and, in addition:

- (a) Be nominated by 10 registered electors of the University concerned, if they are standing for a University seat;
- (b) Be nominated by either 4 members of Parliament or a registered nominating body if they are standing as panel members.

Members of the *Dáil* are elected in a ratio of 3, 4 or 5 to each of the 41 electoral constituencies, by proportional representation under the single transferable vote system.

According to this system, each voter receives a ballot paper containing the names of all the candidates in his constituency. He votes for one of these by writing the figure 1 opposite the name of his choice; he is then at liberty to indicate an order of preference for the other candidates by adding the figures 2, 3, 4, etc., against their names.

At the opening of the count, the ballot papers are sorted according to the first preference recorded. The total number of valid papers is then computed, and from that figure the electoral quota is calculated through division by the number of seats to be filled, plus one. Candidates who obtain a number of first preferences equal to, or greater than, this quota on the first count are immediately declared elected. If, however, no candidate has reached the quota, the candidate who received the lowest number of votes is eliminated and his votes are transferred to the candidate for whom a second preference is recorded. If a candidate receives more than the quota required for election, his remaining votes are transferred to the remaining candidates in accordance with the subsequent preferences expressed by the electors. When the number of remaining candidates neither elected nor eliminated equals the number of vacancies to be filled, those candidates are declared elected, although they may not have reached the quota.

Voting for the Senate, which is by secret postal ballot, is also conducted according to the single transferable vote system.

The Speaker is automatically deemed to have been re-elected to the *Dáil* without having to go through the electoral process.

Vacancies which occur between general elections are filled through by-elections, except that the Prime Minister nominates a person to fill a vacant seat formerly held by a nominated Senator.

## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

### *Dáil Éireann*

General elections for the *Dáil* were previously held only eight months before – on 11 June 1981. On 27 January 1982, the coalition centre-left Government of Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald (*Fine Gael*) was defeated in Parliament by a single vote on a budget issue (tax increases on certain consumer goods). Mr. FitzGerald then resigned and the *Dáil* was prematurely dissolved.

During the three-week campaign, the outgoing Prime Minister called for the drastic austere budget proposals that he insisted were necessary to avert a financial crisis, particularly a mounting foreign debt. Mr. Charles Haughey, leader of *Fianna Fáil* and former Prime Minister, emphasized, among other things, the country's high unemployment rate. Apart from the economic issues, the campaign focused some attention on the policies of the major parties to British-ruled Northern Ireland.

On polling day, *Fianna Fáil* edged out the *Fine Gael*-Labour Party coalition, gaining 81 seats to the latter's combined total of 78 (63 and 15). In this context of no major party obtaining an absolute parliamentary majority (84 seats), formation of a Government again entailed several weeks of negotiations with the seven remaining elected members. On 9 March, the newly-elected Parliament met and chose Mr. Haughey as Prime Minister, by 86 votes to 79. His 16-man Cabinet was announced the same day.

### *Seanad Éireann*

August 1981: After polling by postal ballot for the various panels and university seats, votes were counted from 12 to 15 August, and the full membership of the Senate was completed on 19 August by the 11 nominees of the Prime Minister (then Mr. G. FitzGerald). A total of 14 outgoing Senators lost their seats and 20 individuals entered the Senate for the first time. Of the nominated Senators, six were members of *Fine Gael*, four were from Labour and one was an independent.

April 1982: The poll for all elective seats closed on 21 April.

## Statistics

## 1. Results of the 18 February 1982 Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Dáil Eireann

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,275,450
Voters . . . . .	1,679,500 (73.8%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	14,367
Valid votes . . . . .	1,665,133

Political Group	Number of Candidates	First Preference Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Election
<i>Fianna Fáil</i> . . . . .	131	786,951	47.26	81	78	78
<i>Fine Gael</i> . . . . .	113	621,088	37.30	63	65	65
Labour Party . . . . .	41	151,875	9.12	15	15	15
<i>Sinn Féin</i> the Workers' Party. . . . .	14	36,263	2.18	3	1	1
Irish Republican Socialist Party. . . . .	6	2,716	0.16	—	—	—
Communist Party of Ireland . . . . .	2	462	0.03	—	—	—
Independents . . . . .	58	65,778	3.95	4	6	7
				166	165*	166

\* There was one vacancy at the time of dissolution.

2. *Distribution of Seats in the Seanad Eireann  
following the August 1981 Renewal*

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Fine Gael</i> . . . . .	26
<i>Fianna Fáil</i> . . . . .	19
Labour Party . . . . .	10
Independents . . . . .	5
	<hr/> 60

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

	<i>Dáil</i>	<i>Seanad</i>
Men . . . . .	158	52
Women . . . . .	8	8
	<hr/> 166	<hr/> 60





## LIECHTENSTEIN

**Dates of Elections:** 5 and 7 February 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the expiry of the prescribed term of office of the members.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Liechtenstein, the *Landtag*, consists of 15 members elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

Only male citizens are entitled to vote, provided they are at least 20 years old and have been resident in the country for a minimum of one month prior to the elections. Persons excluded from this right are those deprived by virtue of law or pursuant to a final court decision, those under guardianship or trusteeship, those completing a prison sentence and those committed by a public authority to a closed institution.

Electoral registers are drawn up at the community level and revised before each election. Voting is compulsory and those failing to do so are liable to a fine of up to Sw. Fr. 20 if they do not have a valid excuse (travel abroad, sickness, etc.).

Every member of the electorate is eligible for election to Parliament. In order to be a candidate, one must be nominated by 30 electors from the same constituency.

Liechtenstein is divided into the two electoral constituencies of *Oberland* (Upper Country) and *Unterland* (Lower Country), which elect nine and six Deputies, respectively.

Parliamentary elections are conducted according to a system of proportional representation. In order to qualify for representation in the *Landtag*, a party must obtain 8% of the votes cast in the whole country. Votes for parties which have not obtained this percentage are deducted from the total votes cast in the constituency. The remainder is then divided by the number of candidates in the constituency, plus one; the dividend is then rounded to the nearest whole number. This dividend is deemed the electoral quotient. Any party receives as many seats as this quotient is contained in the total of the votes it has polled.

When this basic division does not result in as many elected Deputies as there are seats to be filled takes, there takes place a second-stage division of "supplementary votes" among those parties which have surpassed the 8% requirement mentioned above.

Any list contains as many candidates as there are seats to be filled. A vote cast for a candidate is also counted as a vote cast for his party. The seats won by each list are allotted to those of its members who have received the most votes.

Should a parliamentary seat become vacant between general elections, it is filled by the "next-in-line" candidate of the party list concerned. A by-election is held in the event that this rule cannot be applied.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1982 elections confirmed the previous distribution of seats in the *Landtag*—eight seats for the Fatherland, or Patriotic, Union (VU) and seven for the Progressive Citizens' Party (FBP). At its first session on 31 March 1982, the *Landtag* re-elected Mr. Hans Brunhart, 37, of the VU as Head of the coalition Government.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Landtag

Number of registered electors . . . . .	5,246
Voters . . . . .	5,003 (95.4%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	94
Valid votes . . . . .	4,909

Political Group		Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
Fatherland Union (VU) . . . . .		20,997	53.47	8 (=)
in <i>Oberland</i> . . . . .	16,194	54.99		5
in <i>Unterland</i> . . . . .	4,803	48.90		3
Progressive Citizens' Party (FBP) . .		18,273	46.53	7 (=)
in <i>Oberland</i> . . . . .	13,254	45.01		4
in <i>Unterland</i> . . . . .	5,019	51.10		3
				<hr/> 15

*2. Distribution of Deputies according  
to Professional Category*

Teachers . . . . .	2
Businessmen . . . . .	2
Lawyer . . . . .	1
Public official . . . . .	1
Master carpenter . . . . .	1
Pediatrician. . . . .	1
Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. . . . .	1
Construction foreman . . . . .	1
Municipal cashier . . . . .	1
Engineer . . . . .	1
Others . . . . .	3
	15

*3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	15
Women . . . . .	15
	15

*4. Average age of Deputies: 43 years (approx.)*





## MALAYSIA

**Date of Elections:** 22 April 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in the House of Representatives following premature dissolution of Parliament on 29 March 1982. Previous general elections had taken place in July 1978.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Malaysia consists of a House of Representatives (*Dewan Ra'ayat*) and a Senate (*Dewan Negara*).

The House of Representatives comprises 154 members elected for a 5-year term. Of these, 109 come from the 11 States of Malaya, 24 from Sarawak, 16 from Sabah and 5 from the Federal Territory.

The Senate comprises 68 members. Of these, 26, or 2 elected by each one of the country's 13 State Assemblies and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, are elected. The remaining 42 are appointed by the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong*, or Supreme Head of the Federation of Malaysia, from among persons who in his opinion have rendered distinguished public service or have achieved distinction in the professions, commerce, industry, agriculture, cultural activities or social service; who are representative of racial minorities; or who are capable of representing the interests of aborigines. Senators serve for a period of 3 years. The Senate is not subject to dissolution. No Senator may serve for more than two terms.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen who has attained the age of 21 and who is on the "qualifying date" (date by reference to which the electoral rolls are prepared or revised) resident in a constituency or, if not so resident, is classified as an "absent voter" (one who is registered as an absent voter in respect of that constituency) is entitled to vote in that constituency in any election to the House of Representatives. A person is disqualified from being an elector if on the qualifying date he is detained as a person of unsound mind, is an undischarged bankrupt, is serving a sentence of imprisonment, or remains liable, pursuant to a conviction in any part of the British Commonwealth, to a sentence of death or imprisonment for a term exceeding 12 months.

Electoral registers are drawn up at the constituency level and are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory. Postal voting is permitted for absent voters, members of the police force, those liable for certain duties on polling day and members of the Election Commission.

Every citizen resident in the Federation is qualified to be a member of the House of Representatives if he is not less than 21 years old and of the Senate if at least 30 years old. A person is disqualified from being a member of either House of Parliament if he owes

allegiance to any country outside the Federation, is insane or an undischarged bankrupt, or has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to a fine of not less than M\$ 2,000. Persons holding an "office of profit" (a full-time office in any of the public services, such as the office of any judge of the Federal Court or of a High Court, of Auditor-General, or of a member of the Election Commission) may for their part not simultaneously be members of Parliament.

Each candidate to Parliament—who need not necessarily be a member of a recognized political party—must be supported by six registered electors of his constituency. A candidate to the House of Representatives must make a monetary deposit of M\$ 1,000, which is reimbursed should the candidate poll more than one-eighth of the total number of votes polled by all the candidates in the constituency. A candidate to Parliament must lodge a return of campaign expenses within the time and in the manner required by law. The maximum expenses allowed are M\$ 20,000.

Representatives are elected in 154 single-member constituencies by simple majority.

By-elections are held, or appointments made, within 60 days (90 days in Sabah and Sarawak) to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections. Representatives' seats which become vacant within six months of the scheduled dissolution of Parliament are not filled.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

On the recommendation of the federal Prime Minister, the House of Representatives was dissolved in March 1982—more than a year before the expiry of its five-year term.

The election campaign was conducted peacefully. It consisted of house-to-house canvassing and indoor lectures. Public rallies were banned. The 75.4% voter turnout was an improvement over the record of the 1978 election.

The election results once again left the National Front, headed by Premier Mahathir bin Mohamed, in a dominant position with as many as 132 of the 154 seats. The DAP secured nine seats, which was seven less than the seats secured by them in the previous elections.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the House of Representatives*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	6,081,628
Voters . . . . .	75.4%
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	130,615
Valid votes . . . . .	4,165,697

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
National Front . . . . .	154	2,522,079	60.54	132 (+2)
Democratic Action Party (DAP) . . . . .	62	815,473	19.58	9 (-7)
Pan-Malayan Islamic Party (PMIP) . . . . .	82	602,530	14.46	5 (=)
Sarawak People's Organization (SAPO) . . . . .	1	178	0.004	- (-1)
Independents . . . . .	61	157,229	3.77	8 (+6)
Other parties . . . . .	118	68,208	1.637	- (=)
				154

2. *Distribution of Representatives according  
to Professional Category*

Businessmen . . . . .	41
Administrative, managerial and executive posts in public and private sectors . . . . .	34
Lawyers . . . . .	30
Doctors . . . . .	14
Farmers . . . . .	10
Teachers . . . . .	10
Lecturers at institutions of higher learning . . . . .	6
Engineers and architects . . . . .	5
Accountants . . . . .	4
	154



*3. Distribution of Representatives according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	146
Women . . . . .	8
	<hr/>
	154

*4. Distribution of Representatives according to Age Group*

Under 30 years . . . . .	3
31-40 . . . . .	31
41-50 . . . . .	101
51-60 . . . . .	19
	<hr/>
	154

## MALI

**Date of Elections:** 13 June 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of its term.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Mali, the National Assembly, consists of 82 Deputies elected for 3 years\*.

### **Electoral System**

All Malian citizens who are at least 21 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote if not otherwise disqualified by law. Moreover, citizens of other African countries who have their residence in Mali and are registered as electors may also vote if they satisfy general requirements pertaining to the electorate. Disqualified from voting are citizens who have been convicted of certain crimes, bankrupts, and persons under guardianship.

Electoral registers are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors of 25 years of age or more who have been domiciled in Mali for at least one year are eligible for the National Assembly. Ineligible are persons who have been naturalized within the preceding 10 years. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with certain public offices.

Candidates for the National Assembly are nominated by the country's sole political party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People (*Union démocratique du Peuple malien*—UDPM). Election of Deputies takes place on the basis of a simple majority party-list system. By-elections are held to fill seats which become vacant between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

According to the country's Electoral Commission, the government list of candidates for the National Assembly was overwhelmingly supported on polling day, 99.7% of the votes in a 96.1% turnout of the electorate having gone to the Democratic Union of the Malian People (*Union démocratique du Peuple malien*—UDPM), the country's sole party provided for in the 1974 Constitution.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XV* (1980-1981), p. 18.

## Statistics

*1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the National Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	3,591,716	
Voters . . . . .	3,453,068	(96.14%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	9,364	
Valid votes . . . . .	3,443,704	

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Union démocratique du Peuple malien (UDPM)</i>	82

*2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	80
Women . . . . .	2
	82

*3. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

30-45 years . . . . .	45
46-60 . . . . .	36
Over 60 . . . . .	1
	82

## MALTA

**Date of Elections:** 12 December 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Under Section 78 of the Constitution, elections to Parliament are to be held within three months of its dissolution. After completing its full term of office, Parliament was dissolved and fresh elections for all the seats announced on 9 November 1981.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Malta, the House of Representatives, is composed of 65 members elected for 5 years. The Speaker of the House is elected either from within the House or from outside from among persons who are qualified for election as members\*.

### **Electoral System**

All Maltese citizens who have attained the age of 18 years and are residing in the country, and who have during the 18 months immediately preceding their registration as electors been resident for a continuous period of six months, or for periods amounting in the aggregate to six months, are entitled to vote. Disqualified from voting are the insane, persons under sentence of death or serving a sentence of imprisonment exceeding 12 months and persons convicted for an offence connected with elections to the House.

Electoral registers are revised and published twice a year, in April and October. Voting is not compulsory.

Any person who has the qualifications for registration as a voter may be elected to Parliament. Disqualified from membership are persons owing allegiance to a foreign State and undischarged bankrupts, whereas holders of public office, members of the armed forces, certain persons party to a government contract, and officials connected with the conduct of the elections cannot, while remaining in these situations, be elected to the House.

Each candidate must be nominated by four voters registered in his electoral division and deposit a sum equivalent to approximately US\$ 100, which is forfeited if the number of votes obtained by him does not exceed one-tenth of the total votes polled divided by the number of members to be elected by that division. Individual campaign expenses are limited to a sum approximately equivalent to US\$ 1500.

For election purposes, Malta is currently divided into 13 divisions. Five Representatives are elected from each of these according to the single-transferable-vote form of proportional representation. Under this system, each elector indicates his order of preference among all the candidates in his electoral division. Candidates are grouped together in alphabetical order

\* Since 1964, this is the first time that the Speaker has been elected from within the House.



under the name of the political party to which they adhere. Independent candidates are listed at the bottom of the ballot paper.

In counting the votes, a quota is first established for each electoral division by dividing the total of valid votes by the number of seats to be filled, plus one, i.e. divided by six. Candidates who obtain a number of first preferences equal to, or greater than the quota, are declared elected.

Should any seats remain to be filled, the surplus votes (i.e. those in excess of the quota) polled by candidates already elected are transferred proportionately to the remaining candidates on the basis of the second preferences indicated. The votes thus transferred are added to those polled by each remaining candidate; the candidate (candidates) who now possesses (possess) a number of votes equal to, or greater than the quota is (are) elected. Candidates with the lowest number of votes are eliminated and their votes transferred to the other remaining candidates according to the next preference shown on the ballot paper. The same operation is repeated until there are no more seats to be filled.

By-elections are held to fill seats which become vacant between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The election campaign lasted just over one month. As in the 1976 general elections, the country's two major parties—the ruling Labour Party and the Nationalist Party—were again the only competitors apart from two independent candidates.

Six Labour Party candidates and six Nationalist Party candidates were each returned from two divisions. A writ by the Acting President of the Republic commissioning the Electoral Commission to hold casual elections in relation to the six seats vacated by Labour Party candidates elected from two divisions was issued on 29 December 1981, and the relative elections held on 9 January 1982.

Casual elections in relation to the six seats vacated by Nationalist Party candidates have not been held. In fact, the Nationalist Party has adopted a policy of non-collaboration with the Government.

Mr. Dominic (Dom) Mintoff (Labour Party), Prime Minister since 1971, continued in the post and announced his new Cabinet on 19 December 1981.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the House of Representatives*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	238,237
Voters . . . . .	225,466 (94.6%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	1,315
Valid votes . . . . .	224,151

Political Group	Number of Candi- dates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Election
Malta Labour Party . . . . .	92	109,990	49.07	34	34	34
Nationalist Party. . . . .	136	114,132	50.92	31	31	31
Independents . . . . .	2	29	.01	—	—	—
				<hr/> 65	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 65

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Professional Category*

Lawyers . . . . .	15
Doctors . . . . .	14
Architects . . . . .	7
Banking, Taxation and Accountants . . . . .	6
Trade unionists . . . . .	4
Contractors. . . . .	3
Journalists . . . . .	2
Others . . . . .	8
Seats to be filled following casual vacancies . . . . .	6
	<hr/> 65

### 3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	58
Women . . . . .	1*
Seats to be filled following casual vacancies . .	6
	<hr/>
	65

### 4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Age Group*

25-35 years . . . . .	9
36-45 » . . . . .	20
46-55 » . . . . .	18
56-65 » . . . . .	9
66-75 » . . . . .	3
	<hr/>
	59**

\* The one lady member returned at the general elections was appointed President of the Republic at the second sitting of the House, and had therefore to resign her seat as member of Parliament. However, another lady member was elected at the casual elections of 9 January 1982.

\*\* Seats to be filled: 6.

## MAURITIUS

**Date of Elections:** 11 June 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the popularly-elected seats in Parliament. Previous general elections took place in December 1976, the life of Parliament having been extended until 1982.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Mauritius, the Legislative Assembly, comprises 66 members: 62 members elected by universal adult suffrage and 4 "additional" members (the most successful losing candidates) appointed by an electoral commission to balance the representation of ethnic communities in Parliament. The term of the Assembly is 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All British Commonwealth citizens aged 18 or more who have either resided in Mauritius for not less than two years or are domiciled and resident in the country on a prescribed date may be registered as electors in their constituency. Not entitled to be registered, however, are the insane, persons guilty of electoral offences, and persons under sentence of death or serving a sentence of imprisonment exceeding 12 months.

Electoral registers are revised annually. Proxy voting is allowed for members of the police forces and election officers on duty during election day, as well as for any duly nominated candidates.

Candidates for the Legislative Assembly must be British Commonwealth citizens of not less than 18 years of age who have resided in Mauritius for a period of at least two years before the date of their nomination (and for six months immediately before that date) and who are able to speak and read the English language with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable them to take an active part in the proceedings of the Assembly.

Disqualified are persons owing allegiance to a State outside the Commonwealth, public officers or local government officers, undisclosed government contractors, undischarged bankrupts, persons under sentence of death or serving a sentence of imprisonment exceeding 12 months, and persons guilty of electoral offences. The Speaker or Deputy Speaker may not be a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.

For electoral purposes, the island of Mauritius is divided into 20 three-member constituencies; the island of Rodrigues for its part returns two members. Deputies are chosen according to a party-list system by simple majority vote, the three candidates (except for Rodrigues) receiving the largest number of votes being declared elected. Each elector has three votes.



As mentioned above, the unsuccessful candidates with the highest number of votes are designated by an electoral commission as the four "additional" members of the Assembly.

By-elections are held to fill constituency seats of the Assembly which fall vacant between general elections.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The general elections were the second since independence in 1968. The polling date was set on 15 February 1982.

The main contending parties for the 62 popularly-elected Assembly seats were the ruling Labour Party, led by the Prime Minister (since independence), Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, and the left-wing *Mouvement militant mauricien* (MMM), the main opposition group whose Secretary-General was Mr. Paul Bérenger. The country's economic situation, particularly unemployment, figured in the centre of the campaign debate. The MMM advocates nationalization of industry; it also pledged, if successful, to turn the nation into a republic and favoured non-alignment in foreign affairs. The Labour Party contested the election in alliance with two right-wing groups, the Mauritian Social Democrat Party (PMSD) and the Progress and Liberty Party, while the MMM—which had won the most seats in the previous (1976) elections—joined forces with the *Parti socialiste mauricien* (PSM).

Polling day was marked by a high turnout of the generally youthful electorate. The left-wing MMM-PSM alliance obtained a complete victory, capturing all 60 seats on the island of Mauritius; a local party on Rodrigues island, supported by the MMM, won the two remaining popularly-elected seats. Four "additional" seats were later allotted to the Labour Party and the PMSD since they were the most successful losing groups.

On 15 June, MMM President Aneerood Jugnauth became the country's second Prime Minister. A new Council of Ministers was sworn in the same day, Mr. Bérenger becoming Minister of Finance.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Legislative Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	540,000 (approx.)
Voters . . . . .	90% (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Mouvement militant mauricien</i> (MMM) . . . . .	42
<i>Parti socialiste mauricien</i> (PSM) . . . . .	18
<i>Organisation du peuple rodriguais</i> (OPR) . . . . .	2
Labour Party . . . . .	2
Mauritian Social Democrat Party (PMSD) . . . . .	2
	<hr/> 66

## NEW ZEALAND

**Date of Elections:** 28 November 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of its term. Previous elections took place on 25 November 1978.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of New Zealand, the House of Representatives, comprises 92 members elected for 3 years. Of these, 88 are members for "general" electoral districts, while 4 are members for electoral districts set aside for representatives of the aboriginal *Maoris*, who account for one-tenth of the population.

### **Electoral System**

Every person 18 years of age or over who is ordinarily resident in New Zealand and who has resided continuously in the country for at least one year may register as an elector. Such a person may vote in that electoral district in which he has resided continuously for three months immediately preceding the date of his application for registration. Persons of the Maori race, and anyone who is a descendent of a person of the Maori race and who wishes to be considered as a Maori, may register and vote either in the general electoral district in which they reside or in one of the four Maori electoral districts.

Persons suffering from various forms of insanity or mental disorder, those who have been convicted of corrupt electoral practices within the preceding three years, and persons incarcerated in any penal institution are disqualified from registering as electors.

Electoral rolls are drawn up for each electoral district by Registrars of Electors. They are kept up to date by means of a system of continuous registration of voters, reprinted annually, and are completely revised every three years. While it is compulsory to register as an elector, there is no legal obligation to vote.

All registered electors who are citizens of New Zealand are qualified to be members of Parliament. In addition, persons who were registered as electors on 22 August 1975 are qualified to be parliamentarians regardless of their nationality.

If a public servant is nominated as candidate, he must be placed on leave of absence until after the election and, if elected, vacates office as a public servant.

Candidates need not be members of a political party. Each must be nominated by at least two electors of the district for which he seeks election, by a day which must not be less than 20 nor more than 27 days prior to polling day. A deposit of NZ\$ 100 is compulsory and is forfeited by the candidate if he receives less than one-fourth of the total number of votes obtained by the victor. Individual election expenses must not exceed NZ\$ 4,000.

New Zealand is divided into 92 electoral districts. Each district returns one member to Parliament on a simple majority system.

By-elections are held to fill any parliamentary seat falling vacant between general elections.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1981 election date was set two months earlier, on 28 September.

For the third consecutive election, the three parties represented in Parliament were led by the same leaders – Mr. Robert Muldoon (Prime Minister – National Party), Mr. Wallace Rowling (Leader of the Opposition – Labour Party) and Mr. Bruce Beetham (Leader of the Social Credit League).

The major issues in the campaign involved the Government's emphasis on its "Think Big" strategy of capital-intensive development projects in contrast with the Opposition's wish to stimulate the growth of small-scale local industries, and the legacy of bitterness left over from a rugby tour by a team from South Africa earlier in the year. On the latter issue the Government, while disapproving of the tour, decided that it could not interfere with the decision of the independent sporting body responsible for rugby in New Zealand to invite the South Africans, while the Opposition maintained that the Government should step in and itself call off the tour if, as proved to be the case, the sporting body failed to do so.

In opinion polls during 1978-1981, the third party, the Social Credit League, had consistently enjoyed a degree of support and had even captured a seat from the Government at a by-election in September 1980. There was considerable speculation that it might well hold the balance of power following what was seen as a very close-fought election. The Party fielded its candidates in all the constituencies. The new *Maori* party – *Manu Motuhake* ("self government") – also put up candidates in the four *Maori* constituencies.

The National Party was returned to power with a narrow overall majority. The vote was very close in several constituencies, necessitating a count of absentee and overseas ballot to determine the winner. Once again the Labour Party obtained slightly more votes in total than the National Party. But this represented a very small percentage of the total votes cast in the election. The Social Credit League gained a considerably increased percentage of the total votes cast but this was not concentrated enough in particular areas to enable it to do more than retain the seats it held at dissolution. In the result, very few seats changed hands – only five in all, with a net gain of three to the Labour Party, one fewer than it needed to deny the National Party an overall parliamentary majority. Final results gave the NP 47 seats to Labour's 43, Social Credit League holding on to its two seats. In this context, Mr. Muldoon named a new 19-man Cabinet on 11 December.

## Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the House of Representatives*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,034,747
Voters . . . . .	1,860,564 (91.44%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	59,261
Valid votes . . . . .	1,801,303

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Election
National Party . . . . .	92	698,508	38.78	47	50	51
Labour Party . . . . .	92	702,630	39.01	43	40	40
Social Credit League . . . . .	92	372,056	20.65	2	2	1
Values Party . . . . .	15	3,460	0.19	—	—	—
Others . . . . .	46	24,649	1.37	—	—	—
				92	92	92

2. *Distribution of Representatives according to Professional Category*

Lawyers . . . . .	16
Farmers . . . . .	14
Trade and commerce . . . . .	10
Teachers (primary and secondary school) . . . . .	9
Public service . . . . .	8
Trade unionists . . . . .	8
Lecturers (university). . . . .	6
Accountants . . . . .	5
Doctors . . . . .	3
Farm-related . . . . .	3
Real estate . . . . .	2
Social work. . . . .	2
Others . . . . .	6
	92



3. *Distribution of Representatives according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	84
Women . . . . .	8
	<hr/>
	92

4. *Distribution of Representatives according to Age Group*

Under 30 years . . . . .	4
30-34 . . . . .	10
35-39 . . . . .	16
40-44 . . . . .	14
45-49 . . . . .	17
50-54 . . . . .	13
55-59 . . . . .	9
60 and over. . . . .	9
	<hr/>
	92

*Average Age of Representatives: 45.8 years*

## NORWAY

**Dates of Elections:** 13 and 14 September 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the term of members. The previous general elections took place on 11 and 12 September 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Parliament of Norway, the *Storting*, consists of 155 members elected for 4 years.

The *Storting* is in reality a unicameral system, but when dealing with legislation, it divides in two parts. The first division is called the *Lagting* (acting as Upper Chamber) and the second division is called the *Odelsting* (acting as Lower Chamber).

Under the terms of the Constitution, the *Storting* nominates one-fourth of its members (39) to constitute the *Lagting*. The remaining three-fourths (116) constitute the *Odelsting*. This nomination takes place at the first assembly of the *Storting* following a general parliamentary election.

### **Electoral System**

Norwegian citizens of either sex and over the age of 18 years\* on polling day are entitled to vote, provided they have resided in Norway during the previous 10 years. The right to vote is lost in the case of any person who is sentenced for criminal offences, enters the service of a foreign power without the consent of the Government, is found guilty of electoral fraud or is declared incapable of managing his or her own affairs.

The electoral registers are revised every four years. Voting is not compulsory.

Every qualified elector is eligible for the *Storting*, with the exception of Ministers and officials of the Ministries, the Royal Court and consular or diplomatic services, whose posts are deemed incompatible with the parliamentary mandate.

Although the great majority of candidates are nominated by a recognized political party, this is not obligatory and persons may run as independents. A candidate may run simultaneously in several constituencies; if he is elected in more than one he must select the constituency he wishes to represent.

Each of Norway's 19 counties (*fylker*) constitutes an electoral constituency. In each of them, four to 15 Deputies and their substitutes are elected by party list system, with proportional distribution of seats according to the St. Laguë method. These same substitutes are called upon to fill any vacant seat which may arise between the general parliamentary elections.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 23.

## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Following the September 1977 general elections, Mr. Odvar Nordli (Labour) had formed a Labour-Socialist Left coalition Government with a majority of one in the 155-member House. In February 1981, Mr. Nordli resigned on health grounds and was succeeded by Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland (Labour)—the first woman in any Scandinavian country to become Prime Minister.

Economic issues—inflation, rising taxes, growing governmental spending, oil production, etc.—dominated the 1981 election campaign. Other matters raised included the abortion law, the NATO alliance, establishment of a Nordic nuclear-free zone, etc.

With the 18-year-old citizens voting for the first time, the voter turnout was rather heavy—83.2%.

The poll results were a major set-back to the ruling coalition. The Labour Party itself lost some 5% in votes and 10 seats. The non-socialist parties took 85 seats as against 77 in the outgoing House. The Conservatives obtained 31.7% votes as against the earlier 24.76% and secured 12 more seats.

The Ministry of Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland resigned on 12 October and the Conservatives formed a minority government headed by Mr. Kaare Willoch, after efforts at forming a non-socialist coalition had failed. Mr. Willoch named his 17-member Cabinet on 14 October 1981.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Storting

Number of registered electors . . . . .	3,004,014
Voters . . . . .	2,498,635 (83.2%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	3,577
Valid votes . . . . .	2,495,076

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats	Number of Seats won at Previous Election
Labour Party . . . . .	914,749	37.20	66	76
Conservative Party . . . . .	780,372	31.74	53	41
Christian Democrats Party . . . . .	219,179	9.38	15	22
Centre Party . . . . .	103,753	6.65	11	12
Socialist Left Party . . . . .	121,561	4.94	4	2
Progressive Party . . . . .	109,564	4.46	4	—
Liberal Party . . . . .	79,064	3.93	2	2
Red Election Alliance . . . . .	17,844	0.73	—	—
Liberal People's Party . . . . .	13,304	0.55	—	—
Norway's Communist Party. . . . .	6,673	0.27	—	—
Others . . . . .	3,683	0.15	—	—
			155	155

1. Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Sex

Men . . . . .	115
Women . . . . .	40
	155

3. Average Age of Members of Parliament: 47.8 years





## RWANDA

**Date of Elections:** 28 December 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament as foreseen in the 1978 Constitution. Dissolution of the previous national legislature —elected in September 1969—followed the military coup d'Etat of 5 July 1973\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

Under the 1978 Constitution and the August 1981 Electoral Law\*\*, the unicameral Parliament of Rwanda, the National Development Council (*Conseil National de Développement*), comprises 64 Deputies elected for 5 years. There is one Deputy for every 35,000 registered electors.

### **Electoral System**

In accordance with the 1981 Electoral Law, all citizens at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote in the electoral district where they reside. Disqualified are persons who have been convicted of murder or assassination, those convicted of undermining the State's internal or external security and consequently sentenced to a term of imprisonment in excess of 12 months, and members of the armed forces convicted of desertion. The right of vote is suspended as regards prisoners, persons under the Government's care and the insane.

Electoral registers are compiled on the municipal level. Voting is compulsory.

Candidates for Parliament must be citizens at least 21 years of age of good character who have resided for at least six months in the constituency where running and who have obtained a diploma certifying four years' study in a secondary school or the equivalent. Ineligible are persons deprived of the right to vote, those having been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months to five years in the preceding 10 years, or to more than five years in the preceding 20 years, fraudulent bankrupts, persons legally incapacitated on a permanent basis, and those having shirked their military obligation through desertion. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the office of President of the Republic, certain public functions at the national and local level, membership of the armed forces, and the post of salaried agent in the private sector.

Candidatures must be submitted from 118 to 104 days prior to the election date. The final list of candidates is compiled by the President of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development (MRND), the country's sole political party; it contains twice as many names (128) as there are parliamentary seats. The country's prefectures are deemed to be its electoral

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections VIII* (1973-1974), p. 7.

\*\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 20.

constituencies. Within these, the 64 Deputies are elected by simple majority, seats being allocated to those candidates having obtained the greatest number of votes.

Substitutes elected at the same time as titular Deputies fill parliamentary vacancies which occur between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The National Assembly elected in September 1969 was dissolved following the military coup d'Etat of 5 July 1973. The normal legislative processes were held in abeyance and all political activity was banned until July 1975, when a new ruling party, the National Revolutionary Movement for Development (MRND), was formed. Pursuant to a national referendum held in December 1978, a new Constitution providing, *inter alia*, for a popularly-elected Assembly to be known as the National Development Council, was approved\*.

The third MRND party congress, held in December 1980, decided that legislative elections would take place in 1981. In accordance with the Electoral Law, the MRND selected twice the number of candidates—128—as there were parliamentary seats to be filled, and the election campaign lasted 30 days. On polling day, the MRND was overwhelmingly supported by more than 93% of the electorate. Major General Juvénal Habyarimana, who assumed power in 1973, continues to be President of the Republic as well as President of the 19-man Council of Ministers.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the National Development Council

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,244,547
Voters . . . . .	2,165,275 (96.47%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	64,505
Valid votes . . . . .	2,100,770
<i>Votes in favour of the</i>	
<i>National Revolutionary Movement for</i>	
<i>Development (MRND) . . . . .</i>	
	2,100,770

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
National Revolutionary Movement for Development (MRND) . . . . .	128	64

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XIII* (1978-1979), p. 24.

2. *Distribution of Deputies according  
to Professional Category*

Public administration. . . . .	62
Liberal professions. . . . .	2
	<hr/>
	64

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	60
Women . . . . .	4
	<hr/>
	64

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

21-30 years . . . . .	1
31-40 . . . . .	37
41-50 . . . . .	24
Over 50 . . . . .	2
	<hr/>
	64





## SAINT LUCIA

**Date of Elections:** 3 May 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats of the House of Assembly following premature dissolution of Parliament on 6 February 1982. General elections had previously been held on 3 July 1979.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Saint Lucia consists of a Senate and a House of Assembly.

The Senate is composed of 11 members appointed by the Governor-General: 6 on the advice of the Prime Minister, 3 on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition, and 2 on the basis of the Governor-General's "own deliberate judgement" after undertaking various consultations.

The House of Assembly comprises 17 elected members. All parliamentarians have 5-year terms of office.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen of the Commonwealth who is at least 18 years old and possesses the required qualifications relating to residence or domicile in Saint Lucia is, unless otherwise disqualified, entitled to vote.

All citizens of at least 21 years of age who were born in Saint Lucia and are domiciled and resident there at the date of their nomination (or having been born elsewhere, have resided there for a period of 12 months immediately before that date), as well as able to speak and—unless incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause—to read the English language with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable them to take an active part in the proceedings of the House are qualified to be elected as members of the House of Assembly; the age and residence requirements for Senate candidates are 21\* and five years, respectively.

No person may be a member of Parliament if he is under allegiance to a foreign State, a minister of religion, an undischarged bankrupt, a person certified to be insane, or one under sentence of death or serving a term of imprisonment exceeding 12 months.

For House of Assembly elections, each constituency returns one member.

Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections are filled through by-elections, whereas Senate vacancies are filled by appointment. Both are effected within three months of the occurrence of the vacancy.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XV* (1980-1981), p. 24.

## General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

On 16 January 1982, Mr. Winston Cenac, who had formed a St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) Government in May 1981, resigned following public protests against his Government and a nationwide general strike. An all-party interim coalition Government was then formed by Mr. Michael Pilgrim, deputy leader of the Progressive Labour Party (PLP). Parliament was dissolved on 6 February and a general election thus became due within 90 days.

On polling day, the United Workers' Party (UWP), led by Mr. John Compton, won 14 of the 17 Assembly seats, thus defeating the formerly dominant SLP; the PLP obtained one seat. Mr. Compton consequently returned to power as Prime Minister on 5 May after a three-year lapse.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Assembly

Number of registered electors . . . . .	75,363
Voters . . . . .	49,590 (65.80%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	1,093
Valid votes . . . . .	48,497

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
United Workers' Party (UWP) . . .	17	27,252	56.19	14 (+ 9)
Saint Lucia Labour Party (SLP) . . .	17	8,122	16.74	2 (- 10)
Progressive Labour Party (PLP) . . .	17	13,123	27.06	1 (+ 1)
				<hr/> 17

### 2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category

Lawyers . . . . .	8
Businessmen . . . . .	5
Social workers . . . . .	4
Farmers . . . . .	3
Teachers . . . . .	2
Insurance agents. . . . .	2
Others . . . . .	4
	<hr/> 28

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	25
Women . . . . .	3
	<hr/>
	28

4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament  
according to Age Group*

30-50 years . . . . .	17
51-75 . . . . .	11
	<hr/>
	28





## SIERRA LEONE

**Date of Elections:** 1 May 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the elective seats in Parliament for the first time after the 1978 constitutional changes\*. General elections had previously been held in May 1977. Parliament was dissolved by the President on 2 April 1982.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Sierra Leone, the House of Representatives, consists of the President, the Speaker and 104 members of Parliament. Of these Representatives, 85 are elected for 5 years by universal suffrage, 12 are Paramount Chiefs who represent Districts and are elected by members of the Tribal Authority of the specific District, and 7 are appointed by the President of the Republic.

### **Electoral System**

Citizens who have attained the age of 21 and are ordinarily resident and registered in a particular ward (the territorial division for election purposes) are entitled to vote for popularly-elected members of the House. No person may be registered who is insane, serving a sentence of imprisonment or disqualified under any law relating to electoral offences.

Any citizen (otherwise than by naturalization) who has attained the age of 21 years, is a registered elector, is a member of a recognized party and is able to speak and read the English language with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable him to take an active part in parliamentary proceedings may be elected to Parliament. The All People's Congress is the only party officially recognized. Under a 1981 amendment to the Constitution\*\*, elections are preceded by a system of primaries in which the executive committees of the ruling All People's Congress (APC) party select up to three candidates to run for election in each of the 85 constituencies. In the primaries, the voters choose between the APC-selected candidates. The 1981 amendment permits civil servants who were previously barred from office to stand for election provided they resign their jobs three months beforehand. A person who has become a citizen by naturalization is qualified only once he has resided continuously in the country for 25 years after such registration, or has served in the civil or regular armed services for a continuous period of 25 years.

No person may be elected to Parliament if he owes allegiance to a foreign State, is disqualified from practising his profession within the country, is under a sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months, or has within the five previous years been sentenced

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XII* (1977-1978), p. 11.

\*\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 21.

to imprisonment for an offence involving dishonesty, for which he was not pardoned. Also disqualified are persons who are, or have been within 12 months prior to the election date, members of any commission established under the Constitution, or members of the armed forces.

Electoral constituencies are established by an Electoral Commission. Each constituency returns one member by simple majority vote.

By-elections are held to fill elective seats of the House which fall vacant between general elections.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

President of the Republic Siaka Stevens was elected in 1977 for a further 7-year term. His position was therefore not at stake.

The campaign was marred by violence. Elections in 13 constituencies were annulled on grounds of "serious irregularities". The election results showed that 40 former MPs had lost their seats, two Cabinet Ministers had been defeated while 13 Ministers and six others had got elected unopposed. The elected included 17 members of the old Parliament and 37 persons elected as members for the first time. Also, for the first time, a woman was elected a member.

## SUDAN

**Dates of Elections:** 13 November 1981 to 15 January 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following premature dissolution of this body on 5 October 1981 in accordance with Article 108 of the Constitution. General elections had previously been held in April-May 1980.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Sudan, the People's Assembly, consists of 151 members\*, 138 elected and 13 appointed by the President of the Republic. All members have a 4-year term of office.

Of the elected members, 68 represent geographical areas (Northern Sudan: 52 and Southern Region: 16) and 70 represent the alliance of working forces. The 13 appointed members – who may not be Ministers – are meant to represent different talents.

### **Electoral System**

Under the terms of the People's Assembly Election Rules 1980, any person is qualified to register on the electoral roll of a geographical constituency, or area, if he is a Sudanese at least 18 years of age who has been resident in the constituency concerned for a minimum of three months (nomads and semi-nomads are exempted from this last condition). Disqualified are the insane and persons not in full possession of their political rights.

Electoral rolls for constituencies of the units of the alliance of working forces include rolls of popular professional organizations at the provincial level (18 provinces) and rolls of sectoral (national) organizations.

Qualified electors who are at least 21 years of age, literate and who have not previously been convicted of an offence connected with honour, morals or the security of the State may be candidates for the People's Assembly. Further requirements are not being a member of the people's regional council and the producing of a certificate from the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU – the country's only recognized political organization and the ruling party) to the effect that there is no objection to the nomination concerned. The nominations of officials and workers in the Government or public sector must be accompanied by a certificate from the unit to which the official or worker belongs showing that he has ceased to perform his duties.

Nominations must be seconded by two qualified electors of the constituency in question and be accompanied by the payment of 100 non-refundable Sudanese pounds. Voting may be effected either by ballot paper or token.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 23.



Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections are filled through by-elections, held within 60 days of the vacancy. Seats of appointed members are filled by presidential decree.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Before President Gaafar el-Nimeiry dissolved the Parliament on 5 October 1981, it consisted of 366 members. The number was reduced to 151 as part of a plan to decentralize powers and delegate more responsibilities to the regional assemblies in matters like health, education and welfare. Under a decision taken by the 1980 SSU Congress, the country was to be divided into six regions under their own governments and assemblies. Preliminary elections for the new Assembly were held in the third week of December 1981. The presidential appointments were announced on 8 February 1982.

### Statistics

#### 1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Sudanese Socialist Union . . . . .	151

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**Dates of Elections:** 9 and 10 November 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of its term of office. Previous elections were held in August 1977.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Syria, the People's Council, consists of 195 Deputies elected for 4 years. According to the 1973 Constitution, half the Assembly members must be workers and peasants; these currently number 99.

### **Electoral System**

All Syrian citizens who are at least 18 years of age and registered as electors are entitled to vote unless they are insane or have been convicted of a serious crime. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors of at least 25 years of age may be candidates for the People's Council. Civil servants and members of the armed forces must resign from their posts if elected as Deputies. As mentioned above, at least half of the Deputies must be workers and peasants, terms specifically defined in the election law. All parliamentarians are elected by simple majority vote. Each member is deemed to represent the whole population, and his mandate may not be restricted by any restrictions or conditions.

Except in cases defined by law, the elected member may take leave in order to join the Council. His post or work is reserved for him, the period of leave being regarded as active. Candidates run in an individual capacity even if they are members of a political party.

If a parliamentary seat becomes vacant for any reason, it is filled through a by-election within 90 days, provided the remaining period of the Council's term is not less than six months.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

According to the Interior Ministry, 45 Front candidates were returned unopposed and a total of 1,558 candidates vied for the remaining 150 seats.

The elections resulted in a victory for the National Progressive Front, which captured all 195 People's Council seats. The *Baath* Arab Socialist Party of President of the Republic Hafez al-Assad won 60% of all seats. As opposed to the previous legislature, no independent candidates were successful.

President al-Assad appointed a new Cabinet on 3 December. The Prime Minister is Dr. Abdul-Rauf Kassem.

## Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the People's Council*

Political Group	Number of Seats
National Progressive Front . . . . .	195 (+ 36)
Independents . . . . .	— (— 36)
	<hr/> 195

2. *Distribution of Members of the People's Council  
according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	182
Women . . . . .	13
	<hr/> 195

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**Date of Elections:** 9 November 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats of the House of Representatives on the normal expiry of Parliament's term. Previous general elections had taken place on 13 September 1976.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The bicameral Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago comprises a Senate and a House of Representatives.

The Senate consists of 31 members appointed by the President of the Republic: 16 on the advice of the Prime Minister, 6 on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and 9 at the President's own discretion "from outstanding persons from economic, social or community organizations and other major fields of endeavour".

The House of Representatives has 36 elected members, of whom 34 are from Trinidad and 2 from Tobago. Parliament's normal term is 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of Trinidad and Tobago or citizens of the British Commonwealth who have resided in the country for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the elections are entitled to vote provided they are 18 years of age or above and have lived in their electoral district for at least two months prior to the election date. Disqualified from being electors are the insane, persons convicted of an election offence, and persons under sentence of death or imprisonment in excess of 12 months.

Electoral registers are revised and published annually. Voting is not compulsory. Postal voting is allowed for certain categories of citizens.

A candidate for the House of Representatives must be a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago who is at least 18 years of age and who has either resided in the country for a period of two years immediately before the date of his nomination for election or is domiciled and resident in Trinidad and Tobago at that date; the minimum age for candidates for the Senate is 25. No person is qualified to be elected as a member of the House, or appointed Senator, who owes allegiance to a foreign State, is an undischarged bankrupt, is mentally ill, is under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months or has been convicted of an offence relating to elections. Also disqualified from membership of the House are persons holding any office connected with elections.

Membership of Parliament is considered incompatible with a number of public offices and posts connected with administration of elections. The Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives may not be a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary; the same applies to the President and Deputy President of the Senate.



Every candidate for election must be nominated by six or more registered electors of his district, and deposit a sum TT\$ 250, which is reimbursed if he polls not less than one-eighth of the total vote in his district. Individual campaign expenses may not exceed TT\$ 5,000.

Representatives are elected in 36 single-member constituencies by simple-majority vote.

By-elections are held within 90 days to fill vacancies in the House which occur within the first four years of the life of the Parliament. Senate vacancies are filled through nomination.

### General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Leading contenders for the 36 House of Representatives seats were the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) and the newly-formed National Alliance, a three-party coalition comprising the outgoing main opposition United Labour Front (ULF), the Tobago-based Democratic Action Congress (DAC) and the Tapia House Movement. The PNM was led by Prime Minister George Chambers, who succeeded Dr. Eric Williams when the latter died in office in March 1981. All in all, 157 candidates and six political parties were in the running. Mr. Chambers stated that the main election issue was the defense of the basic democratic freedoms which Mr. Williams (Prime Minister since the country's independence) had established.

On polling day, the PNM upped its House total to 26 seats while the National Alliance captured the remaining 10 (ULF 8, DAC 2). Mr. Chambers was given a full mandate as Prime Minister and named his new Cabinet on 17 November.

### Statistics

#### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the House of Representatives

Number of registered electors . . . . .	732,831
Valid votes . . . . .	399,964

Political Group	Number of Candi- dates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
People's National Movement (PNM) . . .	36	215,387	53.85	26 (+2)
Trinidad and Tobago National Alliance*	36	80,698	20.17	10
United Labour Front (ULF) . . . . . 12			8 (-2)	
Democratic Action Congress (DAC) . . . 8			2 (=)	
Tapia House Movement . . . . . 16			-	
Organization for National Reconstruction . . . . .	34	89,034	22.26	—
National Joint Action Committee . . . .	28	13,748	3.43	—
Others . . . . .		1,097	0.27	—
				36

\* Formed prior to the elections in 1981.

## TUNISIA

**Date of Elections:** 1 November 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following its premature dissolution in accordance with constitutional law No. 81-78 of 9 September 1981. General elections had previously been held on 4 November 1979.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Tunisia, the Chamber of Deputies\*, is composed of 136 members\*\* elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens aged 20 years or more who have held Tunisian nationality for at least five years and who are in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote. Disqualified are persons convicted of crime; those convicted of offences which entail either an unsuspended sentence of imprisonment in excess of three months or a suspended sentence in excess of six months; those under guardianship; undischarged bankrupts; the insane; and members of the armed forces and the National Guard.

The electoral registers are permanent. They are revised at the commune or sector level on 1 January. Citizens living abroad may also be registered. All disputes concerning the lists are resolved by a revision committee. Voting is not compulsory.

Candidates to Parliament must be qualified electors who are at least 28 years of age and born of a Tunisian father. Governors, magistrates and members of the police force cannot be elected. The exercise of public functions which are non-elective and remunerated out of funds from the State, public establishments or public collectivities are generally incompatible with the office of Deputy; this is also true for the office of president or director of a national enterprise and public establishment, as well as director of administrator of certain public enterprises. Also incompatible are the offices of ambassador and those which involve working for a foreign State or an international organization when remuneration is provided by these employers.

Candidatures must be submitted during the third or fourth week preceding the elections. Candidates must belong to a party list which is made up of candidates who have agreed to appear on the same list; within the same constituency, several lists may not bear the same title or belong to the same party or organization. Each list enumerates twice as many candidates as there are seats to be filled in the constituency. Candidates need make no monetary deposit.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XV* (1980-1981), p. 26.

\*\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 23.

Tunisia is divided into 21 electoral constituencies. In each, four to seven candidates, who appear on the party lists, are elected by simple majority. The elector casts as many votes as there are seats to be filled and, in so doing, may split his vote among candidates of different lists. Should only one list be presented, the candidates on it who have obtained the greatest number of votes are declared elected. In the case of vote splitting, the seats to be filled are allotted to the candidates of the different lists in the order of votes obtained.

An Assembly seat which falls vacant between general elections is filled through a by-election held within three months of the expiry of the legislature's term. No by-elections are however held within the last 12 months of the expiry of the legislature's term.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The renewal of the Chamber of Deputies took place on the basis of constitutional law No. 81-78 providing for premature elections and within the framework of a wider participation in fielding candidates by political organizations and parties. In accordance with President of the Republic Habib Bourguiba's endorsement in April 1981, the poll was the first multiparty one since Tunisia had become independent.

Leading contenders for the 136 Chamber of Deputies seats were the National Front (composed of the ruling Destourian (Constitutional) Socialist Party (PSD) and the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT)), and three opposition movements—the Movement of Social Democrats, the Popular Unity Movement and the Tunisian Communist Party. During the 15-day campaign, the PSD appealed to voters on its record; Prime Minister Muhammad Mzali particularly emphasized the Government's economic achievements. The Social Democrats, who fielded the most candidates among the opposition, urged that they be backed in order to ensure that pluralism become a reality. A total of 366 candidates were in the running.

On polling day, the National Front captured all 136 seats. Mr. Mazli remained Prime Minister and his Cabinet underwent no change.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Chamber of Deputies

Number of registered electors . . . . .	2,321,031
Voters . . . . .	1,962,127 (84.5%)
Void or blank ballot papers . . . . .	20,269
Valid votes . . . . .	1,941,858

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
National Front . . . . .	136 (21 lists)	1,859,000	94.78	136
Movement of Social Democrats . . . . .	116 (19 lists)	65,500	3.28	—
Popular Unity Movement	54 ( 8 lists)	16,000	0.81	—
Tunisian Communist Party	42 ( 6 lists)	15,000	0.78	—
Independents . . . . .	18 ( 3 lists)	6,627	0.35	—
				136*

\* 15 seats added since last elections.

2. Distribution of Deputies according to  
Professional Category

Civil servants . . . . .	43
Teachers . . . . .	34
Businessmen . . . . .	17
Lawyers . . . . .	14
Farmers . . . . .	9
Engineers . . . . .	7
Doctors . . . . .	7
Pharmacists. . . . .	3
Journalists . . . . .	2
	136

3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men. . . . .	129
Women . . . . .	7
	136



*4. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

28-40 years . . . . .	35
41-60 . . . . .	96
61 and over . . . . .	5
	<hr/>
	136

Average Age: 46.6 years

## TUVALU

**Date of Elections:** 8 September 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the expiry of the normal term of office for members.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Parliament of Tuvalu is unicameral. It is composed of 12 elected members and an *ex-officio* member, the Attorney-General. Although the Attorney-General sits in Parliament, his role is purely advisory and he has no vote.

The 12 members are elected by universal suffrage for a term of 4 years. The number of members to be elected from each constituency is determined by population in the ratio of one member for every 1,000 people. The 12 elected members in turn elect a Prime Minister and a Speaker from amongst themselves by secret ballot.

### **Electoral System**

Members of Parliament are elected by the simple majority system. The eight islands of Tuvalu constitute boundaries for the eight constituencies, four of which return two members each and the four others one each.

To be a candidate for membership of Parliament a person must be a citizen of Tuvalu, 21 years of age and proposed by three electors. No monetary deposit is required. However, any person who owes allegiance to a foreign power or State, is an undischarged insolvent, insane or of unsound mind, under sentence of death or serving imprisonment for a term exceeding 12 months, disqualified from membership under an election law, or one who, unless exempted by law, holds any public office, is not qualified to be elected as a member of Parliament.

Every citizen of Tuvalu who has attained the age of 18 years and is resident in Tuvalu may vote in general elections provided that he/she registers himself/herself as an elector. No person who has been sentenced to death or imprisonment exceeding one year, is insane or disqualified under any law in force in Tuvalu relating to offences connected with elections, shall be entitled to be registered as an elector.

Electoral registers are revised once a year. A major revision takes place before every general election. Voting in Tuvalu is not compulsory.

There are no recognized political parties. Each candidate is considered independent and responsible for his own election campaign. There is no prescribed duration for campaigning. A list of candidates, in alphabetical order, is published in each constituency at least 21 days prior to polling day, giving name, profession and age of each of the candidates and of his/

her three proposers. The candidate securing the highest number of votes is elected. In the two-member constituencies, the top two with the highest number of votes are declared the winners.

Seats which fall vacant between general elections are filled through by-elections.

**General Considerations and Conduct of Elections**

The previous elections to the House then called the House of the Assembly were held in August 1977. After independence in October 1978, the House of the Assembly became the Parliament of Tuvalu.

The Parliament was dissolved in July 1978 and thereafter the Government was acting in a caretaker capacity only. The September 1981 elections—the first since independence—were completed in one day. From among 26 candidates, 12 were elected after a rather straightforward and simple polling procedure. They were named and transported to the capital—Funafuti—for electing the Government.

The present Government, headed by Dr. Tomasi Puapua, has a 7:5 majority in Parliament, over the group headed by former Prime Minister Mr. Toaripi Lauti.

**Statistics**

*1. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category*

Retired civil servants . . . . .	10
Businessmen . . . . .	2
Ex-officio (Attorney-General) . . . . .	1
	<hr/> 13

*2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to sex*

Men . . . . .	13 (including one ex-officio)
Women . . . . .	<hr/> 13

## WESTERN SAMOA

**Date of Elections:** 27 February 1982

### Purpose of Elections

Parliament was dissolved on 1 February 1982 and elections held for all the seats in Parliament on the expiry of its prescribed term. Previous elections had taken place on 24 February 1979.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Western Samoa—the Legislative Assembly—consists of 47 members elected for 3 years. Forty-five of these are Samoans elected from 42 territorial constituencies on a franchise confined to *matais* (elected family leaders—*matai* being the head of an *aiga*, which is the traditional Samoan extended family unit) and two are elected by universal suffrage of those outside the *matai* system (mainly Europeans) and registered on the individual voters' rolls.

### Electoral System

Elections are held under the simple majority system. For being a voter, a person must be a citizen of Western Samoa, 21 years of age and a resident. Persons who are insane, undischarged bankrupts or who have been convicted, in Western Samoa or American Samoa, of an offence punishable by death or by imprisonment for a term of two years or more, or convicted, in Western Samoa, of a corrupt practice (unless such offenders have received a free pardon or have undergone their sentence of punishment) are disqualified from voting.

Electors for representatives of *matais* chosen from constituencies must be holders of a *matai* (chief) title—male or female—and registered on the electoral roll of the constituency concerned. Other citizens of Western Samoa—descendants of non-Samoan races—may have their names entered on the individual voters' rolls. No name can simultaneously appear both on the *matai* and the individual voters' rolls.

Electoral rolls are revised yearly. Voting at elections is not compulsory.

Candidates for the Legislative Assembly must be qualified voters. A member is not allowed to hold any office of profit. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with that of a public servant. Public servants who become members must resign.

Candidates must be nominated by two registered electors and make a monetary deposit of an amount equivalent to US\$ 35, which is forfeited if the candidate obtains less than one-half of the total number of votes polled by the successful candidate.

By-elections are held for Assembly seats which become vacant between general elections.



## General Political Considerations and Conduct of Elections

Under the Independence Constitution of 1960, Western Samoa's political institutions combine the forms of British-style parliamentary democracy with elements of the traditional Samoan social structure. While the present Head of State shall hold office for life, the Constitution provides for a Head of State elected by the Legislative Assembly for a five-year term. Since till very recently there were no formally established political parties in Western Samoa, all parliamentary candidates campaigned as individuals. In 1979, however, the opposition members formed the Human Rights Protection Party. Another party—*Vaega o le Tautua*—was formed in 1981.

On polling day, of the approximately 14,000 *matai* and 1,500 individual electors, about 12,000 *matais* and 1,200 individuals actually voted. The Human Rights Protection Party won 23 seats. The same number was won by independents while one seat was declared a draw.

## Statistics

### 1. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category*

Accountants . . . . .	10
Academics . . . . .	4
Economists . . . . .	2
Lawyer . . . . .	1
Others . . . . .	30
	<hr/> 47

### 2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	46
Woman . . . . .	1
	<hr/> 47

### 3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Age Group*

35-50 years . . . . .	25
50-70 years . . . . .	22
	<hr/> 47

## YUGOSLAVIA

**Dates of Elections:** 13 April to 10 May 1982

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in both Chambers of the Assembly of the S.F.R.Y. on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Constitution defines the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (S.F.R.Y.) as a supreme federal body of social self-management. It is bicameral, consisting of the Federal Chamber and the Chamber of Republics and Provinces.

The Federal Chamber is composed of 220 members, 30 from each of the 6 Republics and 20 from each of the 2 Autonomous Provinces. These members are delegates of self-managing organizations (associations of people working in the same enterprise, co-operative or institution, where they utilize socially-owned resources, or contractual organizations of associated labour and self-managing communities of interests with private means of production, in all of which the working people themselves manage, in accordance with the principle of self-management, their work and their working conditions), self-managing territorial communities and socio-political organizations.

The Chamber of Republics and Provinces is composed of 88 members, 12 delegates from each of the 6 Republican Assemblies and 8 delegates from each of the 2 Provincial Assemblies.

Delegates to both Chambers of the S.F.R.Y. Assembly serve for a term of 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens who are at least 18 years of age have the right to elect and be elected members of the delegation of their basic self-managing organization or community, and to be delegates to the assembly of a socio-political community (i.e. any territorial community, whether on the level of a commune, Autonomous Province, Republic or the Federation itself). Such age requirement does not apply in the case of a worker in a labour organization or community who fully participates in the self-management of a working organization or community.

Members of socio-political organizations (such as the League of Communists, the Socialist Alliance of the Working People, the Federation of Trade Unions, the War Veterans' Federations and the Youth League), citizens within local communities and members of the armed forces on active duty also have the right to elect and be elected delegates. University and secondary school students have the right to form delegations in the field of education.

No person may be elected for more than two consecutive terms as delegate to the same assembly. Officials of federal agencies or organizations elected or nominated by either the S.F.R.Y. Assembly and its Presidency, the Presidency of the S.F.R.Y. or the Federal Executive Council (Government) cannot at the same time be delegates to the S.F.R.Y. Assembly.

The candidates for delegates to all levels of assemblies, including the Federal Chamber, are screened during voters' meetings held within basic organizations and territorial communities, as well as within the framework of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People and other socio-political organizations. The Socialist Alliance of the Working People is charged with the co-ordination of nominations. Within 15 days after the calling of elections, the delegations elected by the basic working or socio-political organizations and local communities proceed with the election of delegates to the communal assemblies and propose the list of candidates chosen from among themselves for, on the one hand, delegation to the respective Republican or Provincial Assembly and, on the other hand, delegation to the Federal Chamber.

The list of candidates to the Federal Chamber is drawn up at the latest 15 days before election day by the Nominating Conferences of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of each Republic and Province. Candidates appear on these lists in the order of preference voted upon by secret ballot by each Conference. Each list comprises at least as many candidates as there are seats to be filled (30 for a Republic, 20 for a Province).

Delegates to the Federal Chamber are elected by the communal assemblies by secret ballot and simple majority vote. Electors vote for candidates appearing on blocked lists. Those candidates obtaining the majority of votes in assemblies of communes having the greatest number of voters are declared elected. In case two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, election is according to the candidates' order of appearance on the list.

Delegates to the Chamber of Republics and Provinces are chosen from among the members of each Republican and Provincial Assembly and elected by the latter by secret ballot. Elected delegates keep their double mandate.

Delegates to the S.F.R.Y. Assembly can be recalled. In the case of a delegate to the Federal Chamber, the proposal for recall must first be accepted in principle by all communal assemblies and the Nominating Conference of the Republic or Province from which the delegate comes. A vote is then called in all the communal assemblies and the decision is taken by secret ballot. The recall is approved if the majority of delegates in assemblies of communes having the greatest number of registered voters vote for it.

By-elections are held for vacancies which arise more than six months prior to the normal end of a legislature.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The process of elections started on March 10 and lasted until May 10. Nomination of candidates took place through the month of March and the elections by communal assemblies of delegates for the Federal Chamber were held from 13 to 21 April, depending on the Republic or Province. Elections by the Republican and Provincial Assemblies followed until May 10.

The discussions at the voters' meetings concentrated on an analysis of the four years' experience with the delegation system of government, on the cadre policy and on economic and social planning. By the time the gradual nomination process reached the level of the Nominating Conference of the Socialist Alliance only 220 candidates out of some 1000 were retained.

The new S.F.R.Y. Assembly met for the first time on 15 May 1978.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Federal Chamber

Republic or Province	Number of delegates	Number of electoral colleges (communal assemblies)	Number of registered voters on the territory of the Republic/ Province	Total number of members of the electoral colleges	Total number of votes cast	Total number of invalid votes
<i>Republics</i>						
Bosnia and Hercegovina	30	109	2,727,791	10,836	9,468	25
Croatia . . . . .	30	113	3,328,262	12,100	10,508	33
Macedonia . . . . .	30	34	1,185,241	3,859	3,391	9
Montenegro . . . . .	30	20	355,286	1,754	1,531	11
Serbia . . . . .	30	186	6,394,981	21,084	18,769	50
Slovenia . . . . .	30	65	1,368,400	6,205	5,638	11
<i>Provinces</i>						
Kosovo . . . . .	20	22	698,936	2,444	2,094	—
Voivodina . . . . .	20	50	1,478,108	5,410	4,836	6

2. Distribution of Delegates by Professional Category

	Federal Chamber	Chamber of Republics and Provinces
Economists . . . . .	16	42
Jurists . . . . .	14	15
Officials of socio-political organizations . . . . .	63	8
Senior grade members of armed forces . . . . .	8	—
Members of the teaching profession . . . . .	16	4
Members of the medical profession . . . . .	5	1
Engineers . . . . .	41	11
Technical employees . . . . .	11	5
Skilled workers . . . . .	29	2
Agricultural workers . . . . .	5	—
Various professions . . . . .	12	—
	220	88



3. Distribution of Delegates according to Sex

	Federal Chamber	Chamber of Republics and Provinces
Men . . . . .	175	79
Women . . . . .	45	9
	<u>220</u>	<u>88</u>

4. Distribution of Delegates according to Age Group

	Federal Chamber	Chamber of Republics and Provinces
Under 30 years . . . . .	17	—
30-39 . . . . .	42	5
40-49 . . . . .	66	18
50 and over. . . . .	95	65
	<u>220</u>	<u>88</u>

**Date of Elections:** 1 May 1981

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Tonga, the Legislative Assembly, comprises 25 members: the King, the Privy Council (eight Ministers and two Governors), 7 hereditary nobles elected by their peers and 7 representatives who are popularly elected. Elected members hold office for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All literate citizens of Tonga who are at least 21 years of age are entitled to vote for popularly-chosen members. Male electors must in addition not be nobles. Disqualified from voting are the insane and persons under summons for debt.

Qualified electors who are not in debt for a larger amount than is allowed by law may be chosen as representatives of the people. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with all offices of emolument under the Crown except those of Minister, Chief Justice, Governor and Mayor.

As mentioned above, parliamentarians include seven nobles chosen by the nobles of the Kingdom and seven representatives of the people. The Legislative Assembly determines how both classes of representatives are apportioned amongst the various districts.

The Speaker of the Assembly is appointed by the King.

Upon the death or resignation of any representative of the nobles or the people, the Speaker commands that the nobles or electors of the district which he represented elect a representative in his place.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Tonga, a constitutional monarchy, achieved full independence within the British Commonwealth in June 1970. Elections to the Assembly were previously held in April 1978.

There are no political parties in the country. A unique feature of the legislative system is that the Privy Council, or Cabinet, members sit *ex-officio* in Parliament. The Prime Minister is Prince Fatafehi Tu'ipelehake, the brother of King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV.



## PUBLICATIONS OF THE CIDP

Unless otherwise indicated, the publications listed below are obtainable from the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Place du Petit-Château 269, Geneva (Switzerland).

**PARLIAMENTS OF THE WORLD:** A comparative study of 56 Parliaments in a series of 70 tables preceded by explanatory text (Geneva, 1976). French edition of 881 pages published by Librairie des Sciences Politiques, Paris. On sale in bookshops and, for members of the Inter-Parliamentary Secretariat, at the reduced price of Sw. Fr. 105.—. English version only.

### SERIES "REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS"

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 out of print

- No. 4 The Member of Parliament: His Role and Function in the Modern World**  
 Volume I: Bilingual verbatim record of the 1st Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 18 to 20 January 1970. Pp. 128. Sw. Fr. 25.—  
 Volume II: *Synthesis of the Inquiry into the Role of Information.* Geneva, 1973. Pp. 128\*.  
 Both volumes . . . . . Sw. Fr. 25.—
- No. 5 Who Legislates in the Modern World**  
 Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 29 to 31 January 1971. Pp. 128. Sw. Fr. 22.—
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 II. 1 July 1967 - 30 June 1968\* . . . . . » 10.—  
 III. 1 July 1968 - 30 June 1969\* . . . . . » 15.—  
 IV. (1 July 1969 - 30 June 1970) to XVI (1 July 1981 - 30 June 1982)\* . . . . . » 30.—

\* French edition also available.

\*\* Prior to volume XII (1977-1978), this work was entitled "Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections".



















